

Latinos in U.S. Politics
Political Science 124B / Chicano/Latino Studies 151A
Spring 2014

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Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-1, and by appointment

Teaching Assistant (TA office hours and office locations to be posted to the class web site during Week 1):

Course Web Site: <https://eee.uci.edu/14s/67160>

Course Overview

Even a cursory read of major newspapers or a listen to news commentators would suggest that Latinos are among the most desired votes in national and state politics, perhaps more for their potential future role than for their reliable current contributions to politics. In order to capture this growing electorate, parties, candidates, and leaders are experimenting with new outreach strategies. The Latino position in national, state, and local politics has both substantive and symbolic dimensions. Even at the symbolic level, the outreach represents a significant improvement over the neglect that Mexican Americans and other Latinos long experienced in U.S. politics. In this course, we will examine the foundations and contradictions of contemporary Latino politics.

This course also examines the role of Latino communities in shaping state and national politics in the United States. After we review the political history and political organizational strategies of Latinos, we will examine their contemporary modes of political organization; analyze public policy issues that concern them; evaluate the successes and failures of Latino empowerment strategies; and measure the electoral impact of Latino votes. Though this careful examination of Latinos in U.S. politics, we will develop a richer understanding of contemporary U.S. politics and will be able to develop some hypotheses about its trajectory in the 21st Century.

Course Readings

Readings are taken from two sources. I will ask that you read three books as well as articles/book chapters available on the class website. The books are available from local bookstores. I identify readings on the website with a "***." The books are:

Marisa A. Abrajano. 2010. *Campaigning to the New American Electorate: Advertising to Latino Voters*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

David Gutierrez. 1995. *Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants and the Politics of Ethnicity*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Ricardo Ramírez. 2013. *Mobilizing Opportunities: The Evolving Latino Electorate and the Future of American Politics*. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press.

Course Requirements and Grading

I will evaluate your performance in the class in two ways. These include: 1) three analytical essays on course readings and lectures and 2) a final exam during finals week. *Please note that your grade will be awarded based on the highest three grades from these four assignments.*

Essays: I will assign three analytical essay questions throughout the semester. Each essay should be between six and eight pages. The questions are posted to the class web site.

These essays will ask you to evaluate arguments made in course readings and themes raised in class discussions. You will be able to answer the essay based on the course readings and I will not expect you to do additional research. The essays will be due on (Essay #1) April 22, (Essay #2) May 27, and (Essay #3) June 5.

Essay should be posted to Drop Box in EEE by the beginning of the class session on the due date. Prior to submitting the essay to Drop Box, I will also require that you submit it to TurnItIn.com for review. I will provide more specific instructions about using TurnItIn.com prior to the submission deadline for the first essay.

Final exam: The final exam is on June 12 at 8 am. The exam will include short answer and essay questions that will ask you to analyze and synthesize class readings, discussions, and lectures. We will discuss the exact format prior to the exam and I will welcome your input on how to design an exam that best tests your knowledge of the material.

Grading: You will be required to complete three of these four assignments and each will be worth 1/3 of your final grade for the class. You may complete whichever three you prefer and I would encourage you to pick assignments that do not conflict with assignments in other classes. You may skip the final exam if you have completed the three essays and are satisfied with the grades that you have earned on the essays. If you are dissatisfied with a grade that you receive on one of these assignments, you may complete all four assignments; I will only count three highest grades when I calculate your final class grade.

Extra Credit: I will bring to your attention opportunities to attend events on campus that relate to Latino politics. I can't predict in advance how many of these events there will be or when they will occur. If you hear of an event that you think might be relevant, please bring it to my attention. To earn extra credit, I will require that you attend the event and write a description of no more than one page summarizing the key points. You can earn up to one point of extra credit (1 percent of your final grade) for each of these summaries that you submit, up to a maximum of 5 points. That said, I can't guarantee that there will be five such events.

Course Schedule and Assigned Readings

April 1 – 1) Introduction to Class and Overview of Course Requirements
2) How do you Start (Political) History? Consequences for Latino Politics to When you Begin the Story?

Part One:

Roots of Collective Political Demand Making

April 3 – War, Destruction and Rebirth – The Roots of the Mexican American Experience
Gutierrez, introduction and Chapter Introduction, chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-68)

** Griswold del Castillo, Richard. 1989. *The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo: A Legacy of Conflict*, chapters 3 and 5, pp. 30-42 & 62-86.

April 8 – Laying the Foundation for Contemporary Mexican American Politics ... and its Core Debates

Gutierrez, chapter 3 (pp. 69-116)

** Orozco, Cynthia E. 2010. *No Mexicans, Women, or Dogs Allowed: The Rise of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement*. Austin: University of Texas Press, Chapter 6 ("LULAC's Founding"), pp. 151-180.

Video shown in class: *The Lemon Grove Incident* (also available at the Library: LC2688.L47 L466 1985)

April 10 – Opportunities and Limits of Pluralism Before the Latino Era (1940-1965)

Gutierrez, chapter 4 (pp. 117-151)

** Ruiz, Vicki. 2005. "Luisa Moreno and Labor Activism." In Vicki L. Ruiz and Virginia Sánchez Korrol, eds. *Latina Legacies: Identity, Biography, and Community*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 175-192.

April 15 – The Chicano Movement and the Roots of the Latino Era

Gutierrez, chapters 5, 6, and epilogue (pp. 152-216)

Video excerpt shown in class: *Chicano! History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement* (also available at the Library: E184.M5 C4 1996)

April 17 – No Class

April 22 – Colonialism, Puerto Rico, and the Emergence of Puerto Rican Ethnic Identity

** Trías Monge, José. 2001. "Injustice According to the Law: The *Insular Cases* and Other Oddities." In Christina Duffy Burnett and Burke Marshall, eds. *Foreign in a Domestic Sense: Puerto Rico, American Exceptionalism, and the Constitution*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, pp. 226-240.

** Sánchez Korrol, Virginia. 2005. "Building the New York-Puerto Rican Community, 1945-1965: A Historical Interpretation." In Gabriel Haslip-Viera, Angelo Falcón, and Félix Matos Rodríguez, eds. *Boricuas in Gotham: Puerto Ricans in the Making of Modern New York City*. Princeton, NJ: Markus Wiener Publishers, pp. 1-18.

Essay #1 due at the beginning of class

April 24 – The Puerto Rican Movement and the Ongoing Question of Status in Puerto Rico

** Trías Monge, José. 1997. "Puerto Rico: The Trials of the Oldest Colony in the World." New Haven: Yale University Press, chapter 15 ("Possible Paths to Decolonization"), pp. 177-196.

Video shown in class: *Palante, siempre palante!: The Young Lords* (also available at the Library: F128.9.P85 P25 1996)

April 29 – Cuban Émigrés and a Different Path to Latino Ethnic Identification and Politics

** Croucher, Sheila L. 1997. *Imagining Miami: Ethnic Politics in a Postmodern World*. Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, chapter 4 (“The Success of the Cuban Success Story”), pp. 102-141.

** Portes, Alejandro, and Alex Stepik. 1993. *City on the Edge: The Transformation of Miami*. Berkeley: University of California Press, chapter 2 (“A Year to Remember: Mariel”), pp. 18-37.

Part Two

Latinos and the Politics of Pan-Ethnicity

May 1 – From Mexican American/Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Cuban to Latino: Community and Competing Conceptions of Politics

** Padilla, Felix. 1984. “On the Nature of Latino Ethnicity.” *Social Science Quarterly* 65, pp. 651-664.

May 6 – The Voting Rights Act and the Protection of Latino Electoral Participation

** DeSipio, Louis. 2004. “The Pressures of Perpetual Promise: Latinos and Politics, 1960-2003.” In David Gutierrez, ed. *The Columbia History of Latinos Since 1960*. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 421-465.

May 8 – Latino Civic and Transnational Engagement

** Guarnizo, Luis E. 1997. “Los Domincanyorks: The Making of a Binational Society.” In Mary Romero, Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, and Vilma Ortiz, eds. *Challenging Fronteras: Structuring Latina and Latino Lives in the U.S.* New York: Routledge, pp. 161-174.

** DeSipio, Louis. 2006. “Latino Civic and Political Participation.” In Marta Tienda and Faith Mitchell, eds. *Hispanics and the Future of America*, pp. 447-479. Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press.

May 13 – Latino Electoral Participation: Opportunities and Limits

Abrajano, chapters 1-4 (pp. 1-83).

May 15 – Mobilizing Latino Electorates: Candidates, Campaigns, and Issues

Ramirez, chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-72).

** Manzano, Sylvia, and Gabriel R. Sanchez. 2010. “Take One for The Team? Limits of Shared Ethnicity and Candidate Preferences.” *Political Research Quarterly*: 63 (3): 568-580.

May 20 – Latinos and National Elections: Lessons from the Past/Lessons for the Future

Abrajano, chapters 5-8 (pp. 84-155)

** Barreto, Matt A.; Luis R. Fraga; Sylvia Manzano; Valerie Martinez-Ebers; and Gary Segura. 2008. “Should They Dance With the One Who Brung ‘Em?’ Latinos and the 2008 Presidential Election.” *PS: Political Science and Politics*. October: 753-760.

https://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/PSOct08BarretoFraga_etal.pdf.

** Lopez, Mark Hugo, and Ana Gonzalez-Barrera. 2013. *Inside the 2012 Latino Electorate*. Washington, D.C.: Pew Research Center, Pew Hispanic Center.

May 22 – Latinos and the 2014 Election / Looking forward to 2016

Ramírez, chapters 4-5 (pp. 73-118)

** McGhee, Eric. 2014. "Expanding California's Electorate Will Recent Reforms Increase Voter Turnout?" San Francisco: Public Policy Institute of California.

Video Shown in Class: *Race 2012* (Available at: <http://video.pbs.org/video/2289501021/>)

Part Three
Looking to the Future:
Issues, Latino Empowerment, and Inter-Group Cooperation

May 27 – Voting Rights

** Brennan Center for Justice at New York University Law School. 2014. "Voting Laws Roundup 2014."

** Menard, Louis. 2013. "The Color of Law: Voting Rights and the Southern Way of Life." *The New Yorker*, [July 8].

Essay #2 due at the beginning of class

May 29 – Immigration, "Immigration Reform," and the Restructuring of Latino Politics

Review Gutierrez, chapter 6 and Ramírez, chapter 2.

** DeSipio, Louis. 2011. "Drawing New Lines in the Sand: A Retrospective Evaluation of Immigration Reform's Failure in 2006 and 2007." In Kim Voss and Irene Bloemraad, eds. *Rallying for Immigrant Rights*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

** Lopez, Mark Hugo; Paul Taylor; Cary Funk; and Ana Gonzalez-Barrera. 2013. "On Immigration Policy, Deportation Relief Seen as More Important Than Citizenship: A Survey of Hispanics and Asian Americans." Washington, D.C.: Pew Research Center.

June 3 – Race, White Ethnicity, and Local Politics

** Abrajano, Marisa A.; Jonathan Nagler; and R. Michael Alvarez. 2005. "A Natural Experiment of Race-Based and Issue Voting: The 2001 City of Los Angeles Elections." *Political Research Quarterly* 58 (2) (June): 203-218. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3595623>.

** Barreto, Matt A.; Fernando Guerra; Mara Marks; Stephen A. Nuño, and Nathan D. Woods. 2006. "Controversies in Exit Polling: Implementing a Racially Stratified Homogeneous District Approach." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 39 (3): 477-483. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20451787?origin=JSTOR-pdf>.

June 5 – The Future of Latino and American Ethnic Politics

Ramirez, chapter 6 (pp. 119-141).

Essay #3 due at the beginning of class

Final Exam – Thursday, June 12, 8-10 am