

U.S. Ethnic Politics
Political Science 219C / Chicano/Latino Studies 289
Winter 2007

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Course Goals and Objectives

This course assesses the major theories of ethnic political attitudes and behaviors in U.S. politics and examines various methodological approaches to testing theories of ethnic politics. Although the primary focus is the contemporary conduct of ethnic politics (that driven by groups that began to migrate in large numbers after the 1965 amendments to the immigration law), we will also assess the role of ethnic politics in American political development.

The course will revolve around three interrelated questions:

- 1) How have ethnic communities been constructed historically and how are they today?
- 2) What independent role does ethnicity play in contemporary political mobilization and behavior?
- 3) Are contemporary ethnic groups internally cohesive and, to the extent that they are, do they have a sufficient sense of their own needs to create sustainable multi-ethnic/multi-racial coalitions (whether at the local or national level)?

Time prevents us from specifically examining theories of Black politics in the United States. Throughout the course, however, we will make comparisons between the ways the scholarship has understood African American politics and non-Black minority politics.

Student Evaluation

All students will be expected to attend class sessions and actively participate in class discussions. Each student will also be expected to take responsibility for leading one class session. This "leader" should be prepared to present a brief (10 to 15 minute) summary at the beginning of the class s/he is responsible for of the key theories and

methods explored in each of the class readings. The leader should also prepare three to five questions for class discussion. These questions should be distributed by email the day before class.

Assignments for these leadership roles will be made in class on January 17. Please bring your first and second choices to class that day.

Each student will also be responsible for completing a research paper of 25 to 30 pages on a topic proposed by the student and approved by me. I am very flexible on topics and methodological approaches, but I would encourage you to begin thinking about a topic soon and having some preliminary ideas to me by January 24 at the latest (this may require reading ahead if you are new to this literature). Realistically, in order to complete the paper by the end of finals week, you will need an approved research topic by the end of the end of January.

Students will also be expected to make an oral presentation about their research topic and findings on the last day of class (note that this may be during final's week). The format for these presentations will be similar to a conference presentation—a 12-15 minute presentation on your research question, data, and findings. If topics lend themselves to it, I will try to organize "panels" of similar research topics. I will be happy to serve as (or recruit a) discussant if I have the papers in advance.

Course Readings and Schedule

The books are available for purchase at the bookstore and are on reserve at the library. I will place the articles in a folder in departmental library (some are available through JSTOR).

Week One (January 10) – Introduction and Overview

Week Two (January 17) – Constructing U.S. Ethnic Identities

I will ask half of the students to read Fuchs and half to read Smith. To the extent that you are interested in ethnicity and American political development, you should consider also reading the other volume.

Rogers M. Smith. 1997. *Civic Ideals: Conflicting Visions of Citizenship in U.S. History*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

or

Lawrence H. Fuchs. 1990. *The American Kaleidoscope: Race, Ethnicity, and the Civic Culture*. Hanover: University Press of New England.

Week Three (January 24) – Pluralism and its Discontents

Dahl, Robert A. 1961. *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Wolfinger, Raymond. 1965. "The Development and Persistence of Ethnic Voting." *American Political Science Review* 59 (4) (December): 896-908.
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28196512%2959%3A4%3C896%3ATDAPOE%3E2.0.CO%3B2-M>

Parenti, Michael. 1967. "Ethnic Politics and the Persistence of Ethnic Identification." *American Political Science Review* 61 (3) (September): 717-726.
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-0554%28196709%2961%3A3%3C717%3AEPATPO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-%23>

Fraga, Luis; John A. García; Rodney E. Hero; Michael Jones-Correa; Valerie Martinez-Ebers; and Gary Segura. 2006. "Su Casa Es Nuestra Casa: Latino Politics Research and the Development of American Political Science." *American Political Science Review* 100 (4) (November): 515-521.

Note: There will be a celebration of Professor Easton's receipt of the U.C. Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award from 3 to 5, so we will take an extended break and will probably run late.

Week Four (January 31) – Language and its impact on Ethnic Identity and Political Engagement

Schildkraut, Deborah. 2005. *Press One for English: Language Policy, Public Opinion, and American Identity*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Tam Cho, Wendy K. 1999. "Naturalization, Socialization, Participation: Immigrants and (Non-)Voting." *The Journal of Politics* 61 (4) (November): 1140-1155.
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-3816%28199911%2961%3A4%3C1140%3ANSPIA%28%3E2.0.CO%3B2-O>

Week Five (February 7) – Formation and Development of Ethnic Political Attitudes

García Bedolla, Lisa. 2005. *Fluid Borders: Latino Power, Identity, and Politics in Los Angeles*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Chong, Dennis, and Dukhong Kim. 2006. "The Experiences and Effects of Economic Status Among Racial and Ethnic Minorities." *American Political Science Review* 100 (3) (August): 335-351.

Pantoja in Segura and Bowler (pp. 29-50)

Week Six (February 14) – Naturalization, Panethnicity, and Contemporary Ethnic Political Behavior

Please read one of the following books and the articles/book chapter:

Louis DeSipio. 1996. *Counting on the Latino Vote: Latinos as a New Electorate*. Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia.

or

Pei-te Lien. 2001. *The Making of Asian America through Political Participation*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Masuoka, Natalie. 2006. "Together They Become One: Examining Predictors of Panethnic Group Consciousness Among Asian Americans and Latinos." *Social Science Quarterly* 87 (5): 993-1011.

Pantoja, Adrian, and Sarah Allen Gershon. 2006. "Political Orientations and Naturalization Among Latino and Latina Immigrants." *Social Science Quarterly* 87 (5): 1171-1187.

Barreto and Woods in Segura and Bowler (pp. 148-169)

Week Seven (February 21) – Ethnic Political Behavior and Partisanship

Leighley, Jan E. 2001. *Strength in Numbers? The Political Mobilization of Racial and Ethnic Minorities*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Leal, David. 2002. "Political Participation by Latino Non-Citizens in the United States." *British Journal of Political Science* 32: 353-370.

Shaw, Daron; Rodolfo O. de la Garza; and Jongho Lee. 2000. *American Journal of Political Science* 44 (2) (April): 338-346.

<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0092-5853%28200004%2944%3A2%3C338%3AELTH1A%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Q>

Nicholson and Segura in Segura and Bowler (pp. 51-71)

Uhlaner and García in Segura and Bowler (pp. 72-101)

Week Eight (February 28) – Institutional Mobilization and Barriers

Wong, Janelle. 2006. *Democracy's Promise: Immigrants and American Civic Institutions*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Hajnal, Gerber, and Louch in Segura and Bowler (pp. 123-147)

Hero and Tolbert in Segura and Bowler (pp. 170-189)

Grofman and Donovan in Segura and Bowler (pp. 253-277)

Week Nine (March 7)

No class – Western Political Science Association Meetings

Week Ten (March 14) – Generation, Identity and the Persistence of Contemporary Ethnic Politics: A Look to the Future

Macias, Thomas. 2006. *Mestizo in America: Generations of Mexican Ethnicity in the Suburban Southwest*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

Marcus L. Hansen. 1938. *The Problem of the Third Generation Immigrant*. Rock Island, IL: Augustana Historical Society (pp. 5-20)

DeSipio, Louis, and Carole Jean Uhlaner. Forthcoming [2007]. "Immigrant and Native: Mexican American 2004 Presidential Vote Choice Across Immigrant Generations." *American Politics Research*, March.

Make-Up Class (To be scheduled) – Student Research Presentations