

UIC
Latinos & Politics
LALS 283/PS 209

Spring 2007

BSB 315

MWF 11-11:50

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Course Description

The Latino population consists of approximately 37 million people in the United States. The rapid growth of the Latino population has brought about a new pattern of population diversity in the United States. The 2000 census revealed that Latinos now represent the largest minority group in America. In Chicago, Latinos were responsible for giving Chicago its first population boom since 1950. They now represented nearly thirty-percent of population in the city of Chicago.

This course will explore the histories as well as the more contemporary social and political developments of Latino communities in the United States in a comparative framework. We will focus on the experiences of America's three largest groups of Latino-origin: Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans.

The first part of the course will examine the social construction of Latino identities and trace the historical experiences of all three groups, comparing the elements behind each group's migration and how those processes affect their incorporation in mainstream society. We also examine demographic resources and its impact various facets of participation. Next, we turn to the development of a Latino politics, placing special emphasis on political attitudes, mobilization strategies and formal participation. Also, we address the notions of assimilation and integration within the context of citizenship and culture. Lastly, we tackle educational and public policy issues such as affirmative action and language policy at the federal, state, and local level.

The question that we will return to throughout the course is the degree to which and under what circumstances is it appropriate to speak of a Latino community.

Course Requirements

Class Participation-10%

I will calculate your grade based on three components--class attendance, frequency of participation, and quality of participation. You will be expected to come fully prepared to class and ready to discuss substantive issues raised in that week's readings. In addition, each of you (in groups of 2-3) will be required to lead at least one class discussion based on that week's readings or topics. The success of the class will depend heavily on your enthusiasm and participation.

Midterm-25%

Two midterms will be given in the semester. The first takes place in class on February 16th and the second on April 6th. Both exams will consist of a 2-3 mid-to-long range essay questions. The exam will ask you to analyze and synthesize class readings, lectures, and discussions.

Essays-30%

I will ask you to complete three essays designed to have you analyze the material presented in readings. Each essay should be between 5 and 6 pages and appropriately cite arguments from the readings. These essays will ask you to evaluate arguments made in the course readings including the themes raised in class discussions. Therefore, it is crucial that you read ahead and analyze class material before it is discussed in class. I will assign the essays (with specifics) one week before they are due. Due dates are posted in syllabus. No additional research outside of the classroom will be required for this assignment. **No late essays will be accepted.**

Final Exam-35%

The final exam will be held the week of May 7-11. It will consist of 3-4 long essay questions.

Required Texts

The following books are available for purchase at the UIC bookstore. In addition to these texts, you will be required to read a collection of articles that will be available via the main library e-reserve system. These articles are denoted with an asterisk (*) and will posted on Blackboard.

The books are:

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

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

William V. Flores & Rina Benmayor. 1997. *Latino Cultural Citizenship: Claiming Identity, Space, and Rights*. Boston, Massachusetts: Beacon Press.

Maria de los Angeles Torres. 1999. *In the Land of Mirrors: Cuban Exile Politics in the United States*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Marcelo Suarez-Orozco & Mariela Paez. 2002. *Latinos: Remaking America*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Lisa Garcia-Bedolla. 2005. *Fluid Borders*: Berkeley University of California Press

Course Outline

Week 1 Introduction and Latino Perceptions

17th, 19th

Readings:

Introduction to the Course and the Instructor

*“The Hispanic Challenge” by Samuel P. Huntington

Week 2 Race or Ethnicity: What does it mean to be “Latino, Hispanic?”

22nd, 24th, 26th

Readings:

Continue with “The Hispanic Challenge”

*Nelson, Candance and Marta Tienda. 1997. “The Structuring of Hispanic Ethnicity: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives (pp. 7-29),” in Romero, Hondagneu-Sotelo, and Ortiz ed., *Challenging Fronteras: Structuring Latina and Latino Lives in the U.S.* (New York: Routledge).

“Introduction and Chapter 1 (pp. 1-58) in *Latinos: Remaking America*.

Week 3 Mexicans and Mexican-Americans

29th, 31st, 2nd

Readings:

Continue with *Latinos: Remaking America*

Gutierrez, David. 1995. *Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants, and the Politics of Ethnicity*, Chapters 1-3.

Week 4 The Puerto Rican Experience

5th, 7th, 9th

Readings:

Walls and Mirrors, Chapter 4, 5

*Rodriguez, Clara E. 1997. “A Summary of Puerto Rican Migration to the United States (pp. 101-114),” and *Flores, Juan “Qué Assimilated, Brother, Yo Soy Asimilao: The Structuring of Puerto Rican Identity in the U.S. (pp. 175-186)” in Romero, Hondagneu-Sotelo, and Ortiz eds., *Challenging Fronteras: Structuring Latina and Latino Lives in the U.S.* (New York: Routledge).

Week 5 Puerto Ricans and Cuban Americans

12th, 14th, 16th

Readings: *Torres, Andres. 1998. "Introduction: Political Radicalism in the Diaspora-The Puerto Rican Experience (pp. 1-22)," *Rodriguez-Morazzani, Roberto P. "Political Cultures of the Puerto Rican Left in the United States (pp. 25-47)," and *Whalen, Teresa Carmen "Bridging the Homeland and Barrio Politics: The Young Lords in Philadelphia (pp. 107-123)," in Torres and Velazquez, eds., *The Puerto Rican Movement* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press).

Video Screening: *Mi Puerto Rico*(tentative)

*****Midterm #1, February 16th*****

Week 6 Cuban Americans

19th, 21st, 23rd

Readings: Torres, Maria de los Angeles. 1998. *In the Land of Mirrors*, Chapters 1-4.

Week 7 Demographics, Participation

26th, 28th, 2nd

Readings: Continue *In the Land of Mirrors*, Chapters 5-6.

*Rodolfo O. de la Garza. 1996. "El Cuento do los Numeros and Other Latino Political Myths (pp. 11-30)," in Anibal Yanez-Chavez, *Latino Politics in California* (Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, UCSD).

*"Introduction (pp. 1-6)," "The Setting: Socio-demographic and Attitudinal" (p. 7-15); "Input into the Political System: Participation" (pp. 31-43); " in *Pursuing Power*.

****Paper#1 Due** (at the beginning of class on March 2nd)**

Week 8 Uncovering the Latino Electorate: Partisanship, Ideology, and Preferences

5th, 7th, 9th

Readings:

DeSipio, Louis. 1995. *Counting on the Latino Vote*, Chapters 1-5

Week 9 Gender Politics

12th, 14th, 16th

Readings: Continue with *Counting on the Latino Vote*, Chapters 6

Garcia-Bedolla, Lisa. 2005. *Fluid Borders*, Chapters 1-3.

Week 10 **Continue with Gender and Language Policy**

19th, 21st, 23rd

Readings: Garcia-Bedolla, Lisa. 2005. *Fluid Borders*, Chapters 4-5.

*Schmidt, Ronald Sr. "Latinos and Language Policy (pp. 343-367)," in *Pursuing Power*.

Paper #2 Due (at the beginning of class on March 21st)

Week 11

Spring Break

Week 12 **Language Policy**

2nd, 4th, 6th

Readings

Pearson, Barbara Zurer, "Bilingual Infants: Mapping the Research Agenda (pp. 306-321)," Zentella, Ana Celia, "Latin@ Languages and Identities (pp. 321-338)," Gandara, Patricia, "Learning English in California: Guideposts for the Nation (pp. 339-358)," and Ruiz, Richard and Moll, Luis C. "The Schooling of Latino Children (pp. 362-374)," in *Latinos: Remaking America*.

*"The Language Question (pp. 69-95)," in Cafferty, Pastora San Juan and Engstrom, David W., *Hispanics in the United States: An Agenda for the Twenty-First Century* (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers).

Video screening: The Lemon Grove Incident

Midterm#2, April 6th

Week 13 **Education Policy**

9th, 11th, 13th

Readings:

*Fraga, et al. "Hispanic Americans and Educational Policy: Limits to Equal Access (pp. 286-313)" in *Pursuing Power*.

*Roderick, Melissa. 2002. "Hispanics and Education (pp. 123-174)," in Cafferty, Pastora San Juan and Engstrom, David W., *Hispanics in the United States: An Agenda for the Twenty-First Century* (New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers).

Chapa, Jorge, "Affirmative Actions, X Percent Plans, and Latino Access to Higher Education in the 21st Century (pp. 375-388) in *Latinos: Remaking America*.

*Jorge J.E. Gracia. 2000. "Affirmative Action for Hispanics? Yes and No (pp. 201-222)," and *J. Angelo Corlett, "Latino Identity and Affirmative Action (pp. 223-234)," in Gracia, Jorge J.E., and De Greiff, Pablo, *Hispanics/Latinos in the United States: Ethnicity, Race, and Rights*(New York, NY: Routledge).

Week 14 The Politics of Citizenship and Culture

16th, 18th, 20th

Readings: Flores and Benmayor. 1997. *Latino Cultural Citizenship*, Introduction (pp. 1-23); Part I (pp. 27-53); Part II (pp. 97-123); Epilogue (pp. 255-277).

*Skerry, Peter. 2003. "Citizenship Begins at Home: A New Approach to the Civic Integration of Immigrants (pp. 26-37)," in *The Responsive Community* (Vol. 14, Winter 2003-2004, Issue 1).

Paper #3 Due (at the beginning of class on April 18th)

Week 15 Neighborhood Politics

23rd, 25th, 27th

Readings: *Hardy-Fanta, Carol. 2002. "Latina Women and Political Leadership: Implications for Latino Community Empowerment (pp. 193-212)," in *Latino Politics in Massachusetts: Struggles, Strategies, and Prospects* (New York: Routledge).

Pardo, Mary. 1997. "Mexican-American Women in Grassroots Community Activists: The Mother's of East L.A (pp. 151-168)," in *Pursuing Power*.

*Jones-Correa, Michael. 1998. "Wanting In: Latin American Immigrant Women and the Turn to Electoral Politics (pp. 169-188)," in *Between Two Nations: The Political Predicament of Latinos in New York City* (Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press).

(Invited) Guest Lecturer-Susana Mendoza, State Representative (27th)

Week 16 Latinos and Chicago's Urban Landscape: Power, Conflict, and Coalition Politics

30th, 2nd, 4th

Readings: *Rey, Roberto. 1996. "Leverage Without Influence: Illinois Latino Politics in the 1992," in De la Garza, Rodolfo and DeSipio, Louis, eds., *Ethnic Ironies: Latino Politics in the 1992 Elections*. (Westview Press).

*Hernandez-Gomez, Carlos. 2001. "Latino Leadership: Population Soars, but Political Power Lags," in *The Chicago Reporter* (September/October).

*Betancur, John J., and Douglas C. Gills. 2000. "The African American and Latino Coalition Experience in Chicago Under Mayor Harold Washington (pp. 59-87)," in *The Collaborative City: Opportunities and*

Struggles for Blacks and Latinos in U.S. Cities (New York: Garland Publishing Inc.).

(Invited) Guest Lecturer-Juan Rangel, Executive Director, United Neighborhood Organization

*Dominguez, Jaime. 2000. "Illinois Latinos in 2004 Elections: The Waiting Game Continues." Paper presented at the University of Texas School of Law. 2005.

"Part V, Feedback: Outcomes, Prospects, and Conclusions (p. 427-477)," in *Pursuing Power*.