Spring 2007
BSB 315
MWF 11-11:50

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Email: jdomin2@uic.edu

Office Hours: MW 10-11 or by appointment
Phone:

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:


**Course Outline**

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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Introduction and Latino Perceptions</th>
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<tr>
<td>17th, 19th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings:</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course and the Instructor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*“The Hispanic Challenge” by Samuel P. Huntington</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Race or Ethnicity: What does it mean to be “Latino, Hispanic?”</th>
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<tr>
<td>22nd, 24th, 26th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings:</td>
<td>Continue with “The Hispanic Challenge”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>“Introduction and Chapter 1 (pp. 1-58) in Latinos: Remaking America.</td>
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<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Mexicans and Mexican-Americans</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29th, 31st, 2nd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings:</td>
<td>Continue with Latinos: Remaking America</td>
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<th>Week 4</th>
<th>The Puerto Rican Experience</th>
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<tr>
<td>5th, 7th, 9th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings:</td>
<td>Walls and Mirrors, Chapter 4, 5</td>
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Week 5
*Puerto Ricans and Cuban Americans*
12th, 14th, 16th

Video Screening: *Mi Puerto Rico (tentative)*

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

Week 6
*Cuban Americans*
19th, 21st, 23rd

Week 7
*Demographics, Participation*
26th, 28th, 2nd
Readings: Continue *In the Land of Mirrors*, Chapters 5-6.


**“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

Week 9
*Gender Politics*
12th, 14th, 16th
Readings: Continue with *Counting on the Latino Vote*, Chapters 6

Week 10
Continue with Gender and Language Policy
19th, 21st, 23rd

*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

*“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*.


**Week 14**
16th, 18th, 20th

**The Politics of Citizenship and Culture**

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


***Paper #3 Due (at the beginning of class on April18th)***

**Week 15**
23rd, 25th, 27th

**Neighborhood Politics**


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

**Week 16**
30th, 2nd, 4th

**Latinos and Chicago’s Urban Landscape: Power, Conflict, and Coalition Politics**


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

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