

POLS 389 (24647)
University of Illinois at Chicago
Fall 2008

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BSB 1115
T 11-1:30

International Latino Politics: Migration, Foreign Policy, and Conflict

This course will explore the international dimensions of the Latino experience. The Latino population consists of approximately 37 million people and rising in the United States. The question we will ask is what effect this population boom will have on American external relations, broadly defined.

This course will deal with four main issues: foreign policy, conflict, immigration, and economic relations. We will start with an introductory analysis of the Latino experience in the United States. The course will then shift to an engagement of foreign policy issues, mainly analysis of the concept of national interest. Next, we will analyze conflict and cooperation patterns within the Latin American region with an emphasis on American periods of intervention. The third part of the course will deal with immigration. We will study what are the causes and consequences of immigration patterns. Finally, we will shift to an analysis of international economic relations between the Latin American countries and the United States.

This course will be focused on what it means to be Latino and what effect this identity will have on the external relations of the United States. As the population of Latino-Americans grows within the United States, this question becomes all the more important and pressing. Latinos must have a voice in external matters, but what form will this voice take?

Objectives of Course:

- Understand Latino experience
- Uncover dynamics and causes of immigration
- Understand comparative Latino foreign policy views and preferences
- Discuss the shadow of past conflict operations and their effect on current relations
- Dissect Latin American economic patterns and their impact on the United States

Office Hours and Contact Info

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Required Books

- Suarez-Orozco, Marcelo and Mariela Paez. 2002. *Latinos: Remaking America*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Castles, Stephen and Mark Miller. 2003. *The Age of Migration, Third Edition: International Population Movements in the Modern World*. Guilford Press
- Foer, Franklin. 2005. *How Soccer Explains the World: An Unlikely Theory of Globalization*. Harper Perennial. (ISBN: 0060731427)
- Scheina, Robert L. 2003. *Latin America's Wars, Volume II: The Age of the Professional Soldier, 1900-2001*. Potomac Books. (ISBN: 1574884522)

Requirements:

Research Paper	40%
Participation	30%
Short Paper	10%
Midterm Test	20%

News

Each day we will start off with the discussion of the international news if events take place which are relevant to Latino politics both domestically and internationally. Students should be prepared to bring up and discuss these events. Any reputable national news source is acceptable. I prefer the New York or Los Angeles Times. Finding news events that are relevant will take time and skill. Some of reports are buried in the news coverage of the day and it is your responsibility to find the relevant ones that others may have missed.

Participation

Participation is simply showing up and contributing to class. Either asking questions, bringing up news articles, following up on lecture points, or private conversations with the professor (if you are more comfortable with that) all count towards your participation grade. I do not take attendance and feel that missing class will be reflected on your final grade because you will miss important material.

Adopting a Country

Since this course is about international Latino issues, every student will adopt one Latin American country as their own for the rest of the course (you cannot choose Mexico, nor a country of origin – try something new). Your first short paper will be an analysis of this country. Relevant questions are what are the country's foreign policy concerns? What are the immigration inflow and outflows of this country? What economic issues are important both domestically and internationally? What conflict events have occurred in this country? Is it involved in any rivalries? This paper will be due September 9th, 5-7 pages.

Research Paper

Your assignment for your major term paper is the analysis of the dynamics of United States – Latin American relations. You may choose to analyze either a Latin American rivalry or the immigration patterns between one Latin American country and the United States.

If you choose to analyze a rivalry, you must include past conflict actions, foreign policy dynamics, conflict resolution, economic issues, and current events. You should trace the start of the rivalry to its end by asking some common questions. If you choose to analyze migration patterns, your paper should detail the numbers of incoming and outgoing peoples between one Latin American country and the United States. You should also analyze the causes of immigration and the consequences.

This will be a detailed assignment with a large amount of research. The paper should be 15-20 pages. Longer papers will be accepted, but the ability to condense information and present it in an organized way is valued. At the end of the semester you will present your paper to the class. This paper could be used later for an application to a Ph.D. program, to present at an undergraduate research conference, or the basis for your thesis in an honors program.

Course Outline

Latino Experience

1. Latino History
2. Latino Political Participation Dynamics
3. Street Gangs: International Dimensions
4. Miami Cubans
5. International Sport: How Soccer Explains the World
6. Divided Loyalties: Latinos and the World Cup

Foreign Policy

1. International Relations Theories
2. Latinos and the National Interest
3. Comparative Foreign Policy: Mexico and the United States
4. Comparative Foreign Policy: Latin America and the United States

Conflict in Latin America

1. Small Power Wars
2. Revolutions and Interventions
3. Great Power Involvement
4. Drug Wars
5. Latin American Rivalries and State Building

Immigration

1. Latino Immigration into the United States
2. International Migration Patterns
3. Causes of International Migration
4. Effects of International Migration

Economic Issues

1. Free Trade Agreements
2. Socialist Movements
3. Remittances
4. The Washington Consensus

Readings and Assignments

August 26

Introductions and outline
Why Latinos matter?

Sept 2

Latino History (Read: *Latinos* Ch 1)
Latino Political Participation Dynamics (Read: *Latinos* Ch 20-21)

Sept 9

Street Gangs: International Issues (Read: *Latinos* Ch 4)
Miami Cubans (Read: *Latinos* Ch 3)
Caribbean Latinos (Read: *Latinos* Ch 2)

Short Paper Due

Sept 16

Assimilation and Acculturation
Divided Loyalties: Latinos and the World Cup (Read: Valeriano Paper Online)

Sept 23

International Sport and Politics (Read *How Soccer Explains the World*)

Sept 30

International Relations Theories
The National Interest (Read: Morgenthau, APSR, 1954, Online)

Oct 7

Latinos and the National Interest (Read: Valeriano, Online and Huntington, Foreign Policy)

Oct 14

Comparative Foreign Policy: Mexico and the United States
(Read: Valeriano and Powers, "United States – Mexico: Interstate Relations Post-9/11," Online)
Comparative Foreign Policy: Latin America and the United States
(Read: Valeriano and Marin, "Latin American Responses to the Bush Doctrine," Online)

Oct 21

Importance of Conflict Studies
Small Power Wars (Read: *Latin America's Wars*, Ch 11, 13, 32)

Oct 28

Revolutions and Interventions (Read: *Latin America's Wars*, Ch 22, 24, 27, 34)
Great Power Involvement (Read: *Latin America's Wars*, Ch. 33, 21, 35)

Nov 4

Drug Wars (Read: *Latin America's Wars*, Ch. 38)

Latin American Rivalries and the Making of a State (Read: Thies, Online)

Nov 11

International Migration Patterns (Read: Age of Mig. Ch 2, 3, 4)

Test Today

Nov 18

Causes of International Migration (Read: Age of Mig. 5, 6)

Latino Immigration into the United States (Read: *Latinos*, Ch 8)

Nov 25

Effects of International Migration (Read: Age of Mig. Ch 9, 10, 11)

Dec 2

Economic Relations: Free Trade, Socialism, Investment, Remittances

Final Papers Due on Dec 7