Latino Politics

Fall 2010

The University of Texas at Austin
Government 370K, Mexican American Studies 374, and Latin American Studies 337M
Unique Numbers 38665, 35810, and 40140

Professor Jason P. Casellas, Ph.D.
MW 5:00-6:15 p.m.
Room: Mezes B0.306
Office Hours**:** MW 3:00-4:30 p.m.
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Teaching Assistant Office Hours: TR 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Prerequisite: Six semester hours of lower-division coursework in government.

Course Description and Goals:

Latinos are now the largest minority group in the United States, and any follower of recent elections knows that both political parties have heavily courted the Latino vote. The course will begin by examining the history of Latinos in the United States, including the diverse nature of the Latino community. We will begin with an introduction to the Chicano movement, and its major players, Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales and Reies Lopes Tijerina. We will examine the extent to which Latinos are represented at all levels of government, including school boards, state legislatures, and Congress. We will also examine major public policies, like the origins of English-only legislation and recent efforts to revive such policies. We will also examine immigration policy, including a brief history of how immigration has affected people of Latino backgrounds, including the potential impact of proposed policies such as a guest worker program on Latino political incorporation. Finally, we will examine education policy, especially how No Child Left Behind (NCLB) has impacted the Latino community, as well as the determinants of the high school dropout problem, which is highest in the Latino community. We will delve deeper into the politics of Puerto Ricans, and Cuban Americans, by examining the Puerto Rican political experience in New York City, as well as the Cuban American "model" in Miami. New waves of immigrants from the Dominican Republic, Central America, and South America have also changed the traditional focus on the three large Latino groups. Additionally, we will examine how traditional gender roles have subordinated Latinas, especially in the Chicano movement, but also in many recent political events. We will conclude by examining the future of the Latino vote by examining Latino voting behavior in recent elections and how the future may look for both political parties.

Required Texts

García, F. Chris and Gabriel R. Sanchez. (2008). *Hispanics and the U.S. Political System: Moving into the Mainstream.* Prentice Hall

Geron, Kim. (2005) *Latino Political Power.* Lynne Rienner Press

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

**Other readings will be journal articles, or selected chapters from other books. These will be marked with an * below in the appropriate week.

Course Grading

Grades will be computed as follows:

Exam I	20%
Exam II	25%
Exam III	30%
Book Review	20%
Random Attendance Quizzes	5%
Total	**100%**

Exams
The exams will test your knowledge of the readings, lectures, and films. Exams will combine multiple-choice questions, true/false, identifications, and short essays. Make up exams will not be granted unless there is a verified illness or family emergency.

Random Attendance
Random attendance quizzes will be given throughout the semester. They may include true/false or short answer questions about the readings. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. No makeups allowed for quizzes. *Excused Absences* can be granted for an illness certified by a doctor, for family emergencies approved by the Dean, or for official university events with documentation (i.e., a letter from the coach). In the case of planned events, advance notice of at least one week must be given. DO NOT miss class and then arrive the next time with a letter documenting the reason for the absence.

Book Review
Each review should be 5-7 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point, 1 inch margins). Possible books to review will be suggested in class and/or office hours. My teaching assistant must approve your choice of a book. The book must be related to Latino politics in some major way. Suggestions on how to go about writing the review, and the instructor's expectations will be discussed in class. It will be due on **November 22nd.**

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to follow the University Honor Code. Namely, cheating and plagiarism will NOT be tolerated. Any instances will be reported to the Dean. For more information, please consult http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/.

Cancelled Classes
At times, classes may be cancelled. The class will be informed of these dates by email and/or blackboard and will be held responsible for any readings or assignments.

Religious Holy Days
By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Special Needs
If you need special assistance due to a disability, please notify me before the need arises. Information is available from the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259. http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/

Course Changes
I reserve the right to change the contents of this syllabus as the needs of the course develop.

Copyright notice from the Professor: I have taken steps to ensure that all course material, including this syllabus and the lectures associated with this class, are protected by copyright law as my own original expression. Students are authorized to take notes in class and thus create their own "derivative work" from my lectures, but this authorization extends only to your personal use. Reproduction, distribution, or publication (on-line or otherwise) of transcribed or taped versions of my lecture are not permitted without my express written consent.

The following scale will be used to calculate final grades:

93-100%	A	73-76%	C
90-92%	A-	70-72%	C-
87-89%	B+	67-69%	D+
83-86%	B	63-66%	D
80-82%	B-	60-62%	D-
77-79%	C+	Below 60%	F

<u>Course Schedule (Tentative Dates)</u>

August 25 **Syllabus Distribution**

August 30 **Introduction to Latino Politics**
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 1
Geron, Ch. 1

The Setting
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 2

September 1 **Latino Ethnicity, Identity, and Culture**
*Schmidt, et al, *Latina/o Identities*, PS
*White et al, "A Latino on the Ballot: Explaining Co-Ethnic Voting among Latinos," *Journal of Politics*

September 6 **Labor Day—No Class**

September 8 **History of Latinos in the United States**
Garcia and Sanchez**, Ch. 3**

September 13 **History of Latinos in the United States**
Hero, Latinos and the U.S. Political System*, Chapters 2 and 3.

September 15 **Mexican Americans—Early History in the U.S.**
*Skerry. *Mexican Americans: The Ambivalent Minority*, Chapter 1.
Geron, Ch. 2

September 20 **Mexican Americans—20th Century Growth**
Chicano! History of the Civil Rights Movement, Vol. 1
Quest for a Homeland, clips of documentary
*Gomez-Quinones, Liberalism and the Chicano Movement

Mexican Americans—Later Involvement in Politics
Geron, Ch. 3

September 22 **Mexican Americans in Texas**
*Skerry, *Mexican Americans: The Ambivalent Minority*, Chapters 2 and 5

September 27 **Cuban Americans—Early Immigration**
Torres, Ch. 3 and 4

September 29 **Cuban Americans—1980's, Cold War, Miami Enclave**
Torres, Ch. 5 and 6
*"Will Little Havana Go Blue?" *New York Times* Magazine, July 13, 2008.

Puerto Ricans—Early Years
*Jennings, James, *Puerto Rican Community*

October 4 **Puerto Ricans**
Yo Soy Boricua Pa'Que Tu Lo Sepas!—Rosie Pérez
* Jennings, James. *Future Directions for PR Politics*

October 6 **Puerto Ricans and other Latinos in New York City**
*Jones-Correa, Michael. *Between Two Nations*, chapter 6

October 11 **Exam I (All readings and lectures until October 6)**

October 13 **Latino Political Participation**
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 6
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 7

October 18 **Latinos in the Electoral Arena**
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 8

Latino Representation in Congress and State Legislatures
*Casellas, J. 2007. "Latino Representation in Congress: To What Extent are Latinos Substantively Represented?" in *Latino Politics: Identity, Mobilization, and Representation.*
*Casellas, J. 2009. "The Institutional and Demographic Determinants of Latino Representation." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*

October 20 *Mexican American Legislative Caucus: The Texas Struggle for Equality and Opportunity*
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 9

October 25 **Latino Representation**
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 10
Geron, Ch. 8
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 11

October 27 *POV: Farmingville*
Latinos and Public Policy: Immigration
*Huntington, "*The Hispanic Challenge"*, *Foreign Affairs*

November 1 **Latinos and Public Policy: Immigration**
*Tichenor, Daniel. *Dividing Lines*, chapter 2, pp. 167-175, chapter 9

November 3 **Exam II (All material from Oct 13- Nov 1)**

November 8 **Latinos and Public Policy: Lang, Education & Immigration**
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 12
Latino Public Opinion
*Uhlaner and Garcia, Latino Public Opinion
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 4

November 10 **Latino Public Opinion**
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 5
*Skerry, *Mexican Americans: The Ambivalent Minority*, Chapter 9.

November 15 **Politics in the City**
*Vaca, *The Presumed Alliance*, chapter 1
Geron, Ch. 6

November 17 **Coalition Politics—maybe not?**
*Vaca, *The Presumed Alliance*, chapter 7

Latinos in Recent Elections
Geron, Ch. 5
*de la Garza and DeSipio. "Between Symbolism and Influence." In *Muted Voices*. Pp. 13-61.

November 22 **Latinos in the 2000 Elections—Book Reviews Due Today**
*de la Garza and DeSipio. "Between Symbolism and Influence." In *Muted Voices*. Pp. 13-61.
*Montoya, "Still Waiting in the Wings." In *Muted Voices*, pp. 163-172
Into the Mainstream/ Latinas in Politics
Geron, Ch. 4

November 24 **No Class-Happy Thanksgiving!**

November 29 **Latinos in the 2004 Elections and Beyond//Review**
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 13
*Leal et al. "The Latino Vote in the 2004 Election." *Political Science and Politics*, Volume XXXVIII, January 2005.
Beyond the Barrio* ***selections*

December 1 **Exam III (All material since Exam 2)**