Latino Politics

Spring 2013

The University of Texas at Austin
GOV 370K, MAS 374, and LAS 337M
Unique Numbers 38965, 36229, and 40400

Professor Jason P. Casellas, Ph.D.
Tues. and Thurs. 3:30-4:45 p.m.
Room: Parlin 201
Office Hours**:**
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Course Description:

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.

Note from the Center for Core Curriculum: *"This course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering*

the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization."

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. They will be uploaded on Blackboard. You may read the assignments on your tablets or print them out at your leisure.

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.

Random Attendance Quizzes
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.

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 **April 18th**.

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

Academic Integrity
Please consult the UT Honor Code (or statement of ethics) for an explanation or example of what constitutes plagiarism (Link to University Honor Code: http://registrar.utexas.edu/catalogs/gi09-10/ch01/index.html). Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and will be reported to the Dean of Students. Students who plagiarize will receive a grade of F for the assignment in question.

Students with Disabilities
May request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259, http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/

Religious Holiday Accommodations
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.

Recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, http://www.utexas.edu/safety/:

- Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.
- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.
- Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency.

Course Schedule (Tentative Dates)

January 15 **Syllabus Distribution**

January 17 **Introduction to Latino Politics**
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 1
Geron, Ch. 1

The Setting

Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 2

January 22 **Latino Ethnicity, Identity, and Culture**
*Schmidt, et al, *Latina/o Identities*, PS
*Fraga et al, *Latino Lives in America*, selected portions
*White et al, "A Latino on the Ballot: Explaining Co-Ethnic Voting among Latinos," *Journal of Politics*

January 24 **History of Latinos in the United States**
Garcia and Sanchez**, Ch. 3**

January 29 **History of Latinos in the United States**
Hero, Latinos and the U.S. Political System*, Chapters 2 and 3.

January 31 **Mexican Americans—Early History in the U.S.**
*Skerry. *Mexican Americans: The Ambivalent Minority*, Chapter 1.
Geron, Ch. 2

February 5 **Mexican Americans—20th Century Growth**
*Gomez-Quinones, Liberalism and the Chicano Movement

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

February 7 **Mexican Americans in Texas**
*Skerry, *Mexican Americans: The Ambivalent Minority*, Chapters 2 and 5
Film: *Chicano! History of the Civil Rights Movement*, Vol. 1 Quest for a Homeland

February 12 **Cuban Americans—Early Immigration**
Torres, Ch. 3 and 4

February 14 **Cuban Americans—1980's, Cold War, Miami Enclave, Valentine's Day**
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*

February 19 **Puerto Ricans**
Film: *Yo Soy Boricua Pa'Que Tu Lo Sepas!*
* Jennings, James. *Future Directions for PR Politics*

February 21 **Puerto Ricans and other Latinos in New York City**
*Jones-Correa, Michael. *Between Two Nations*, chapter 6

February 26 **Exam I (All readings and lectures until February 21)**

February 28 **Latino Political Participation**
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 6
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 7

March 5 **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*

March 7 **Film**: *Mexican American Legislative Caucus: The Texas Struggle for Equality and Opportunity*
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 9

March 19 **Latino Representation**
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 10
Geron, Ch. 8
Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 11

March 21 **Latinos and Public Policy: Immigration**
*Huntington, "*The Hispanic Challenge"*, *Foreign Affairs*
* Pantoja and Segura 2003, "Fear and Loathing in California: Contextual Threat and Political Sophistication among Latino Voters." *Political Behavior*

March 26 **Latinos and Public Policy: Immigration**
*Tichenor, Daniel. *Dividing Lines*, chapter 2, pp. 167-175, chapter 9
*Barreto et al 2009, "Mobilization, Participation and Solideridad: Latino Participation in the 2006 Immigration Protest Rallies,"*Urban Affairs Review*.

March 28 **Exam II (All readings, lectures, and films from Feb. 28-March 26)**

April 2	**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
April 4	**Latino Public Opinion** Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 5 *Skerry, *Mexican Americans: The Ambivalent Minority*, Chapter 9.
April 9	**Politics in the City** *Vaca, *The Presumed Alliance*, chapter 1 Geron, Ch. 6 *Barreto 2010, *Ethnic Cues*, Chapter Five
April 11	**Film**: *POV: Farmingville*
April 16	**Coalition Politics—maybe not?** *Vaca, *The Presumed Alliance*, chapter 7 *Abrajano and Alvarez, *New Faces, New Voices*, excerpts **Latinos in Recent Elections** Geron, Ch. 5
April 18	**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
April 23	**Latinos in the 2008 Elections and Beyond** Garcia and Sanchez, Ch. 13
April 25	**Latinos in the 2012 Elections** *Readings to be distributed on Blackboard. **Guest Lecturer**: Dr. Victoria DeFrancesco Soto, Latino Decisions Polling Firm and MSNBC political analyst
April 30	**Exam Review and Final Thoughts**
May 2	**<u>Exam III</u> (All readings and lectures since Exam 2)**