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Spring 2013

4134 Humanities  
403 North Hall

**Latino History and Politics**  
History 414/Political Science 401

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This class will consist primarily of lectures supplemented with videos, and student participation. We will examine the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural experiences and conditions of Latinos, the largest racial/ethnic minority group in the United States. The focus of the course will be on people who can trace their origins to Mexico, the Caribbean, and countries of Latin America. However, while the main emphasis will be on the experiences of Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans—the three largest U.S. Latino ethnic groups—considerable attention will be given to Dominicans, Salvadorans and many other Latino ethnic groups that are fast becoming a force in contemporary U.S. society. Although they share many things in common, Latinos have variegated experiences in the U.S. due to regional and/or national differences. Their historic modes of incorporation into American society will be analyzed and discussed, along with their continuing migration patterns, their experiences of racialization, as well as their current demographic and socio-economic conditions. A historical and comparative sociological perspective will be used throughout the course to help explain contrasting experiences.

**Course Objectives and Goals**

To read and discuss an array of materials on Latino Politics.

To develop critical reading and thinking and writing skills.

To introduce students to the complexity of the Latino population and divergent political agendas of various subgroups.

To develop an understanding of the historical origins of how Latino social/political movements have emerged and changed.

To evaluate the role of movements and activists in policy reform and social/political change.

To examine the impact of the Latino vote on contemporary politics.

To explore contemporary policy issues affecting the Latino population.

To examine the agency and contributions of Latinos to the process of political and social change.

The following books are available at Rainbow Bookstore, 426 W. Gilman Street:

Juan Gonzalez. *Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in America.*

Lilia Fernandez. *Brown in the Windy City: Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans in Postwar Chicago.*

Daniel Kanstroom. *Aftermath: Deportation Law and the New American Diaspora.*

Silvia Pedraza. *Political Disaffection in Cuba's Revolution and Exodus.*

Wendy D. Roth. *Race Migrations: Latinos and the Cultural Transformation of Race.*

All assigned readings are on reserve.

### **Course Requirements**

#### **I. Class Participation**

We encourage class participation. Extra credit will be given for thoughtful questions, arguments and debate. Extra credit will also be given for students who present their research findings at the end of the semester.

#### **II. A Mid-Term Examination**

The mid-term exam will consist of essay and short answer questions.

#### **III. Five Book Critiques**

Five (5) five-page critiques of the thesis, methods, evidence and conclusions of the assigned books. Guidelines will be distributed in class. Papers are due on the day the books are discussed. Students are required to critique all assigned books to fulfill the five-critique requirement.

Time will be set aside to discuss all of the assigned readings. In order to facilitate our critique of the assigned readings, all students will be assigned to a small discussion group. On the days discussions of the assigned readings are scheduled, students in these groups will spend about fifteen minutes reading each others papers, offering constructive criticism to one another, and raising issues and questions to be brought before the whole class.

**IV. A Research Paper**

A twelve to fifteen page research paper. Guidelines will be distributed in class. The term paper is due on May 9<sup>th</sup>. We ask that you turn in both a paper copy and an electronic copy of your research paper, in PDF or DOC format.

**IV. A Final Examination.**

The final exam will take place on Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 am. Format TBA.

**Grades** will be determined using the following weighing scheme:

Book Critiques.....	25% (5% each)
Mid Term Exam.....	20%
Term paper.....	25%
Final Exam.....	30%
Class Participation.....	up to 5% extra credit

Students must complete all required work in order to be eligible to receive a passing grade in the course. Makeup exams will be given and late papers accepted without a penalty only in the case of a medical emergency.

**Office Hours:**

Professor Scarano: Tuesdays, 11-12 (walk-in hour) and 2:30-4:30 (sign-up only) For the sign-up period, please add your name to the appointment sheet outside the office, 4234 Humanities, or email fscarano@wisc.edu.

Professor Marquez: Wednesday 1:15 to 3:15 and by appointment, 403 North Hall.  
marquez@polisci.wisc.edu

Feel free to make an appointment or drop by during our office hours. We welcome students.

## **COURSE OUTLINE/TOPICS**

### **Week One. January 22 & 24:** The Latino Population in the U.S.

- A. Introduction, assignments, administrative matters [January 22]
- B. U.S. Latinos: A Profile [January 24 - Marquez]

### **Week Two January 29 & 31:** Latino Ethnicity: Culture and Identity

- A. Assimilation Theory and Latino Immigrants [January 29 - Marquez]
- B. Assimilation Theory and Its Critics [January 31 - Marquez].

### **Week Three. February 5 & 7:** Culture and Negotiation: Latinos in the New Megalopolises

- A. Discuss Roth, *Race Migrations*. [February 5 – Marquez & Scarano] Critique due.
- B. Negotiated Latinidad: Culture and Identity in the New Chicago [February 7 - Scarano]

### **Week Four. February 12 & 14:** Assimilation and Acculturation in a Post Industrial America

- A. Latinos in Los Angeles and San Antonio [February 12 Marquez]
- B. Discuss Fernandez, *Brown in the Windy City*. [February 14 – Marquez & Scarano] Critique due.

### **Week Five. February 19 & 21:** The Mexican American Civil Rights Movement

- A. Historical precedents: The Mexican American Civil Rights Movement [February 19 – Marquez]
- B. Historical precedents: The Mexican American Civil Rights Movement [February 21 – Marquez]

### **Week Six. February 26 & 28:** The Chicano Movement/Cuban Exile Politics

- A. The Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 1970s [February 26 – Marquez].

B. U.S. Empire and the Making of a Latino Colonial World [March 21 - Scarano]  
[February 28 - Scarano]

**Week Seven. March 5 & 7: Puerto Rico, USA? Cuban Exceptionalism?**

A. Puerto Ricans in the American Century: Coloniality, Incorporation, and Nationhood  
[March 5]

B. Cuban Exceptionalism? [March 7].

**Week Eight. March 12 & 14: Puerto Rico, USA?**

A. Discuss Pedraza, *Political Disaffection in Cuba's Revolution and Exodus*. [March 12  
- Scarano] Critique due.

B. Review session [March 14]

**Week Nine. March 19 & 21:**

A. Midterm exam [March 19]

B. Film: *The Puerto Rican Mambo: Not a Musical* [March 21]

**Spring Recess March 23 - 31**

**Week Ten. April 2 & 4.**

A. Our Dominican Neighbors and the Stories they Tell [April 2 Scarano]

B. Pizza Party and discussion of Gonzalez, *Harvest of Empire*. Wednesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at  
6:30 pm. Location TBA. Critique due.

C. Race, Culture, and Politics among Caribbean (Im)migrants [April 4 – Scarano]

**Week Eleven. April 9 & 11: Latinos and 2012 Presidential Election/ Latinos and Participation  
in the Political Process**

A. Gary Segura, Guest Speaker, Stanford University [April 9]

B. Explaining Social Change: Theories from the Social Movement Literature [April 11 – Marquez]

**Week Twelve. April 16 & 18:** Latinos and Participation in the Political Process

A. Video: *A Class Apart* [April 16 – Marquez].

B. Mexican-Americans: Multiple Voices in the Post-WWII Order [April 18 – Marquez].

**Week Thirteen. April 23 & 25:**

A. The Prospects for Comprehensive Immigration Reform [April 23 - Marquez]

B. Nation Divided or State-in-the-Making? A Puerto Rican Conundrum during the Great Recession [April 25 - Scarano]

**Week Fourteen. April 30 & May 2:** Globalized Production and Latino Workers

A. Mexican American Women in the Garment Industry [April 30 – Marquez]

B. Women Workers, Household Transformations, and the Caribbean Garment Industry [May 2 - Scarano]

**Week Fifteen. May 7 & 9:** Globalized Production and Latino Workers (cont.)

A. Discussion of *Aftermath: Deportation Law and the New American Diaspora*. [May 7 Marquez & Scarano] Critique due.

B. Student presentations & review session [May 9]