

Francisco Scarano
Benjamin Marquez
Fall 2015

4134 Humanities
403 North Hall

Latino History and Politics
History 422/Political Science 422

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 second 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 other countries of Latin America. The main emphasis will be on the experiences of Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans—the three largest U.S. Latino ethnic groups. However, 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 condition. A historical and comparative sociological perspective will be used throughout the course to help explain contrasting experiences.

Course Objectives and Goals

- Read and discuss an array of materials on Latino politics.
- Develop critical thinking, reading, and writing skills.
- Introduce students to the complexity of the Latino population and divergent political agendas of various subgroups.
- Develop an understanding of the historical origins of how Latino social/political movements have emerged and changed.
- Evaluate the role of movements and activists in policy reform and social/political change.
- Examine the impact of the Latino vote on contemporary politics.
- Explore contemporary policy issues affecting the Latino population.

□ Examine the agency and contributions of Latinos to the process of political and social change.

The following books are available at the Rainbow Bookstore (426 W. Gilman St., ph. 257-6050):

Abrajano and Hajnal. *White Backlash : Immigration, Race, and American Politics*.

Adrian Burgos. *Playing America's Game: Baseball, Latinos, and the Color Line*.

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

Lorin Thomas *Puerto Rican Citizen: History and Political Identity in Twentieth-Century New York City*.

Matt A. Barreto and Gary Segura. *Latino America: How America's Most Dynamic Population Is Poised to Transform the Politics of the Nation*.

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 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

Four (5) five-page critiques of the thesis, methods, evidence and conclusions of the assigned books. Students are required to follow critique guidelines that will be distributed in class. Papers are due on the day the books are discussed. All students are required to critique our first reading. Students can then choose among the remaining books to fulfill the four-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.

Please note that even if you have not written a book critique during a given week, it is still essential that you read the assigned books each week before coming to class. It is not possible to put off any of the readings before the exams and expect to do well in the class.

IV. A Research Paper

A twelve- to fifteen-page research paper. Guidelines will be distributed in class. The term paper is due on December 15th. 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 December 22nd at 7:25 pm. Format TBA.

Grades will be determined using the following weighing scheme:

Book Critiques.....	20% (5% each)
Mid Term Exam.....	20%
Term paper.....	30%
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. Make up exams will be given and late papers accepted without a penalty only in the case of a medical emergency.

Office Hours:

Professor Scarano:

Open office hour: W 1-2 p.m.

Sign-up hours: W 2-4 p.m. (by appointment; please sign up outside office, 4234 Humanities or by email, fscarano@wisc.edu)

Professor Marquez: W 1:30 – 3:30 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. September 3: The Latino Population in the U.S.

A. Introduction, assignments, administrative matters.

Week Two September 8 & 10: Latino Ethnicity: Culture and Identity

A. U.S. Latinos: A Profile [September 8 - Marquez]

B. Assimilation Theory and Latino Immigrants [September 10 - Marquez]

Week Three. September 15 & 17: Culture and Negotiation: Latinos in the New Megalopolises

A. Assimilation Theory and Its Critics [September 15 - Marquez].

B. Discuss Barreto and Segura. *Latino America* [September 17 – Marquez & Scarano]
Critique due.

Week Four. September 22 & 24: Assimilation and Acculturation in a Post Industrial America

A. Negotiated Latinidad: Culture and Identity in the New Chicago [September 22 - Scarano]

B. Historical precedents: The Mexican American Civil Rights Movement [September - 12 Marquez]

Week Five. September 29 and October 1: The Mexican American Civil Rights Movement

A. The Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 1970s [September 29 – Marquez]

B. Who Represents Latinos? Foundations, Social Movements and Interest Groups [October 1 – Marquez]

Week Six. October 6 & 8: The Chicano Movement/Cuban Exile Politics

A. Puerto Ricans in the American Century: Coloniality, Incorporation, and Nationhood [October 6 – Scarano].

- B. Discuss: Thomas *Puerto Rican Citizen* Critique due. [October 8 – Scarano & Marquez]

Week Seven. October 13 & 15: Puerto Rico, USA?

- A. The Puerto Rican Status Debate [October 13 - Scarano]
- B. Dominicans in American Society [October 15 - Scarano]

Week Eight. October 20 & 22: Puerto Rico, USA?

- A. Cuban Exceptionalism? [October 20 - Scarano]
- B. Discuss Burgos. *Playing America's Game*/Review session. [October 22 – Scarano and Marquez]. Critique due.

Week Nine. October 27 & 29:

- A. Midterm exam [October 27]
- B. Puerto Rico's Debt Crisis and its Reverberations [October 29 - Scarano]

Week Ten. November 3 & 5. Latinos and 2016 Presidential Election/ Latinos and Participation in the Political Process

- A. Changing Demographics and a Growing Latino Electorate [November 3 – Marquez]
- B. The 2014 and 2016 Presidential Elections [November 5 – Marquez]

Week Eleven. November 10 & 12:

- A. Looking Back: U.S. Empire and the Construction of a Latino Colonial World [November 3 Scarano]
- B. Pizza party and discussion of *Harvest of Empire*. Wednesday November 4th at 6:30 pm. Location TBA. Critique due.
- C. Race, Culture, and Politics among Caribbean (Im)migrants [November 5 – Scarano]

Week Twelve. November 17 & 19: Immigration Policy.

- A. Video: “From Mambo to Hip Hop: A South Bronx Tale.” [November 17]
- B. The History of Latino Immigration the Public Policy Reaction [November 19–Marquez].

Week Thirteen. November 24:

- A. Discussion of Abrajano and Hajnal. *White Backlash* Critique due. [November 24]

*******Thanksgiving Recess*******

Week Fourteen. December 1 & 3: Globalized Production and Latino Workers

- A. The Prospects for Comprehensive Immigration Reform [December 1 – Marquez].
- B. Mexican American Women in the Garment Industry [December 3– Marquez]

Week Fifteen. December 8 & 10: Globalized Production and Latino Workers (cont.)

- A. Women Workers, Household Transformations, and the Caribbean Garment Industry [December 8 - Scarano]
- B. Student presentations [December 10]

Week Sixteen. December 15: Student Presentations

- A. Student Presentations & review session