

Chicano/Latino Politics
Political Science/Chicano Studies 125S

TTH 10am-10:50am

Room: 200-034

Dr. Melissa R. Michelson

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Office hours: TTH 11-noon, CSRE (building 360)

Overview

This class examines Latino political history and the scope of Latino political participation in the United States. We will focus on Mexican-Americans, Cuban-Americans, and Puerto Ricans, but other Latino national-origin subgroups will also be discussed more briefly. Students will explore major themes within Latino politics including political identity, social movements, political behavior, public opinion, and immigration.

Requirements

Students should attend class regularly and come to class well prepared, ready to discuss the assigned readings, current events, and their individual research projects.

Grading

Grades will be based on class participation (10%), peer assessment (10%), written work (50%), and a final exam (30%). Details of how these grades will be determined will be reviewed on the first day of class. In lieu of completing the four essays at the end of each unit, students have the option of completing one of two alternative assignments: 1) A research project using the 2006 Latino National Survey dataset, or 2) an extended in-class presentation in which the student reviews, critiques and compares research findings from two supplemental texts chosen after consultation with the instructor. If you are interested in completing one of these alternative assignments, please arrange to come discuss your project with me as soon as possible.

Required Books

- Lisa García Bedolla, *Latino Politics* (Polity 2009). 978-0-7456-3385-5.
- Lisa García Bedolla, *Fluid Borders: Latino Power, Identity, and Politics in Los Angeles* (California 2005). 0-520-24369-2.
- Luis Fraga, John A. García, Gary Segura, Michael Jones-Correa, Rodney Hero and Valerie Martinez-Ebers, *Latino Lives in America: Making it Home* (Temple 2010). 978-1-4399-0049-9.
- David Coates and Peter Siavelis, eds. *Getting Immigration Right: What Every American Needs to Know* (Potomac 2009). 978-1-5979-7265-9.

In addition to these required texts, there will be a series of shorter readings posted on Coursework. These are noted below in the class schedule.

Students with documented disabilities

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) located within the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). SDRC staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated

in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the SDRC as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066, 723-1067 TTY).

Honor Code

The Honor Code is the University's statement on academic integrity. It is essentially the application of the Fundamental Standard to academic matters. Provisions of the Honor Code date from 1921, when the honor system was established by the Academic Council of the University Faculty at the request of the student body and with the approval of the President. The Honor Code reads:

The Honor Code is an undertaking of the students, individually and collectively:

1. that they will not give or receive aid in examinations; that they will not give or receive unpermitted aid in class work, in the preparation of reports, or in any other work that is to be used by the instructor as the basis of grading;
2. that they will do their share and take an active part in seeing to it that others as well as themselves uphold the spirit and letter of the Honor Code.

The faculty on its part manifests its confidence in the honor of its students by refraining from proctoring examinations and from taking unusual and unreasonable precautions to prevent the forms of dishonesty mentioned above. The faculty will also avoid, as far as practicable, academic procedures that create temptations to violate the Honor Code.

While the faculty alone has the right and obligation to set academic requirements, the students and faculty will work together to establish optimal conditions for honorable academic work.

Examples of conduct that has been found to be in violation of the Honor Code include:

- Copying from another's examination paper or allowing another to copy from one's own paper
- Unpermitted collaboration
- Plagiarism
- Revising and resubmitting a quiz or exam for regrading without the instructor's knowledge and consent
- Representing as one's own work the work of another
- Giving or receiving aid on an academic assignment under circumstances in which a reasonable person should have known that such aid was not permitted

For more information, see the Interpretations and Applications of the Honor Code at <http://stanford.edu/dept/vpsa/judicialaffairs/guiding/honorcode>. The standard penalty for a first offense is a one quarter suspension from the University and 40 hours of community service. In addition, many faculty members issue a 'No Pass' for the course in which the violation occurred.

Class Schedule

9/21 – Introductions & Overview

Unit One: The Latino Emergence in U.S. Politics (9/23, 9/28, 9/30, 10/5, 10/7)

- Read:

Lisa García Bedolla, *Latino Politics*

Jessica Lavariega Monforti, "Rhetoric or Meaningful Identifiers? Latina/os and Panethnicity" *Latino/a Research Review* 2007)

Melissa R. Michelson, "Majority-Latino Districts and Latino Political Power" (*Duke Journal of Constitutional Law and Public Policy* 2010)

Kim Geron and Melissa R. Michelson, "Latino Partisanship, Political Activity, and Vote Choice." (In Havidán Rodríguez, Rogelio Saenz, and Cecilia Menjivar, eds., *Latinas/os in the United States: Changing the Face of América*, New York: Springer, 2008)

- Daily Schedule:
 - 9/23 History and Demographics of Latinos in the US
 - 9/28 The DREAM Act and the 1986 Immigration Reform Control Act (IRCA)
 - 9/30 The Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - 10/5 Agency and Structure; Proposition 187, HR4437
 - 10/7 Getting out the Latino Vote, unit summary
- First Essay Due Thursday 10/7

Unit Two: Latino Life in America (10/12, 10/14, 10/19)

- Read:
 - Luis Fraga et al., *Latino Lives in America*
 - Mark Sawyer, "Racial Politics in Multi-Ethnic America: Black and Latino Identities and Coalitions." (In Anani Dzidzienyo and Susanne Oboler, *Neither Enemies nor Friends: Latinos, Blacks, Afro-Latinos*, New York: Palgrave Press, 2009).
 - Alejandro Portes, Cristina Escobar and Renelinda Arana, "Divided or Convergent Loyalties? The Political Incorporation Process of Latin American Immigrants in the United States" (*International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 2009).
- Daily Schedule:
 - 10/12 Overview of the LNS focus group findings; the American Dream and identity
 - 10/14 Inter and intra-group relations, Afro-Latinos
 - 10/19 Transnationalism, unit summary
- Second Essay Due 10/21

Unit Three: Socialization, Resistance, and Cultural Innovation (10/21, 10/26, 10/28, 11/2)

- Read:
 - Lisa García Bedolla, *Fluid Borders*
 - Mary Pardo, "Mexican American Women Grassroots Community Activists: Mothers of East Los Angeles" (*Frontiers* 1990).
 - Maylei Blackwell, "Líderes Campesinas: Nepantla Strategies and Grassroots Organizing at the Intersection of Gender and Globalization" (*Aztlán* 2010).
- Daily Schedule:
 - 10/21 Overview of *Fluid Borders*
 - 10/26 Gender and grassroots organizing
 - 10/28 ★GUEST SPEAKER – Dr. Lisa García Bedolla, UC Berkeley★
 - 11/2 Pros and cons of assimilation, unit summary
- Third Essay Due 11/4

Unit Four: Immigration (11/4, 11/9, 11/11, 11/16, 11/18)

- Read:
 - David Coates and Peter Siavelis, eds., *Getting Immigration Right*
 - Matt Barreto, Sylvia Manzano, Ricardo Ramírez and Kathy Rim, "Immigrant Social Movement Participation: Understanding Involvement in the 2006 Immigration Protest Rallies" (*Urban Affairs Review* 2009)

Janelle Wong, "Immigrants & American Civic Institutions" (In Janelle Wong, *Democracy's Promise: Immigrant American Civic Institutions*, Michigan, 2006, ch. 1).

- Daily Schedule:
 - 11/4 & 11/9 History and background of modern immigration debates
 - 11/11 Current immigration debates
 - 11/16 The other immigrants – refugees and asylees, unit summary
 - 11/18 ★*GUEST SPEAKER* – Sandra Koppe, San Francisco Asylum Office, Office of Asylum, Refugee and International Operations, Citizenship and Immigration Services ★
- Fourth Essay Due 11/18

Thanksgiving Recess 11/23 & 11/25

Student Presentations 11/30 & 12/2

Final Exam 12/6 3:30-6:30pm