Seminar on Latino Politics in the United States

Brown University, Fall 2013 • Weds. 3:00-5:20 p.m. • Wilson Hall 204

What You Will Learn

This seminar examines Latino political history and participation in the United States. We consider the lives of immigrants—and descendants of immigrants—from the Spanish colonial regions of Latin America. Our subjects include, for example, Latino immigration, socialization, and citizenship; Latino social movements and political participation; intra-Latino diversity by gender, race, and class; and prospects for inter-racial coalitions with African Americans and Asian Americans.

Who Should Take This Class

This course is suitable for all undergraduates, and for graduate students in political science, American studies, sociology, urban studies, Hispanic studies, and anthropology, who want a deeper understanding of the ongoing Latino emergence in U.S. politics and society. It is especially appropriate for motivated, engaged students because as a seminar, it features lively weekly discussions among students and the professor, based on assigned readings, short writing assignments, and Latino-related current news. With readings drawn from contemporary, award-winning books, undergraduate and graduate students alike will be both challenged and rewarded.
About the Professor

Tony Affigne is a professor of political science at Providence College, and visiting professor of American studies at Brown, who has taught and written on racial politics for more than twenty years. Since 2008, Prof. Affigne has offered courses in Brown's ethnic studies program—this one (ETHN 1890A) and ETHN 1892 - Race, Class, and Gender in Latino Communities. Prof. Affigne is a Brown alum (Class of '76) and one of Brown's first ten Latino students—ever. He is a board member for the Rhode Island Latino Civic Fund, and a member of the state Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC).

How This Class is Conducted

ETHN 1890A is an advanced seminar, which means that students share significant responsibility for successful outcomes. Weekly attendance is required, and all students are expected to engage in thoughtful debate and discussion about the reading assignments, current events affecting Latinos, and your own research. The seminar format can be very effective, when the class is well-prepared.

Writing Assignments: Review Essays

You will have a choice of assessment options in this class. Typically, most students will choose the “Essay Option,” which includes three review essays matching our three main units—Latino Emergence and Empowerment; Paradoxes of Latino Identity; Immigration and the Racial Paradigm—and a one-page research report about Latinos at Brown. Your grades on these essays will be averaged, and will account for 80% of your course grade.

Alternative Assessment Options: Bibliographic Essay or Professional Presentation

If you prefer, however, in place of the three review essays (all students will write the “Latinos at Brown” report), you may substitute one of these alternatives: 1) a bibliographic essay about some aspect of the political history of the Puerto Rican, Mexican American, or other Latino community; or 2) an extended in-class professional presentation, in which you review, critique, and compare research findings from two of the recommended books (from the list below). More information about these options can be found on page six. Your grade for your bibliographic essay, or your in-class presentation, will account for 80% of your course grade.

Grading and Assessment

In addition to the 80% of your course grade which is based on the quality of your written work and research, an additional 20% will reflect your seminar participation as shown in class discussions, readings, attendance, and effort. There is no final exam, and we will not meet during Reading Period. Our final class meeting will be Wednesday, December 4.
Required Books

The following books are required, and can be purchased through the Brown Bookstore:


*Latino Politics*, L. García Bedolla (Polity 2009).


*Ethnic Cues: The Role of Shared Ethnicity in Latino Political Participation*, M. A. Barreto (Michigan 2010).


Recommended Books (1992-2013)

The following books are not required, but are promising sources for extended research and study in the field of Latino politics. They can be found in Rockefeller Library or via Interlibrary Loan. Please see a librarian for instructions. From among these titles, you may select two for your in-class professional presentation.

*The Latina Advantage: Gender, Race, and Political Success*, C. Bejarano (Texas 2013).


Latino Political Power. K. Geron (Lynne Rienner 2005).

The Illusion of Inclusion: The Untold Political Story of San Antonio. R. Rosales (Texas 2000).


Pursuing Power: Latinos and the Political System. F. C. Garcia, ed. (Notre Dame 1997).


CLASS SCHEDULE WITH READING ASSIGNMENTS

UNIT I • THE LATINO POLITICAL EMERGENCE, 1970-2013

9/4/13 Introduction and Course Overview


Reading assignment: Selected chapters from Bowler and Segura.


Reading assignment: Selected chapters from Garcia Bedolla.

FIRST ESSAY DUE: WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT LATINO POLITICS, ANYWAY?

UNIT II • LATINO IDENTITY AND U.S. POLITICS

9/25/13 Diversity and Democracy in Latino Politics

Reading assignment: Selected chapters from Beltrán.

10/2/13 The Creation of Identity

Reading assignment: Selected chapters from Beltrán.

10/9/13 Co-Ethnicity, Linked Fate, and Electoral Participation

Reading assignment: Selected chapters from Barreto.

10/16/13 Ethnic and Racial Stereotypes in the Political Media

Reading assignment: Selected chapters from Abrajano.

SECOND ESSAY DUE: THE POLITICAL USE AND ABUSE OF “IDENTITY”
## UNIT III • MID-SEMESTER MIKE CHECK: LATINO IDENTITY AT BROWN

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<tr>
<td>10/23/13</td>
<td>Discussion: <em>The History and Politics of Brown's Latino Student Community</em></td>
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<td><strong>Research assignment:</strong> One-page research report, on some aspect of Latino student history at Brown, 1968-2013.</td>
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## UNIT IV • IMMIGRATION AND RACE IN LATINO POLITICS

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<td>10/30/13</td>
<td>Immigration and Political Competition</td>
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<td><strong>Reading assignment:</strong> Selected chapters from Leal and Limón.</td>
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<td>11/6/13</td>
<td>Immigration and Cultural Renewal</td>
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<td><strong>Reading assignment:</strong> Selected chapters from Leal and Limón.</td>
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<td>11/13/13</td>
<td>Race and Power in the United States</td>
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<td><strong>Reading assignment:</strong> Selected chapters from Hero and Preuhs.</td>
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<td>11/20/13</td>
<td>Linked Fate, Coalition Formation, and Empowerment</td>
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<td><strong>Reading assignment:</strong> Selected chapters from Hero and Preuhs.</td>
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**THIRD ESSAY DUE: LATINO RACIALIZATION AND RACE RELATIONS**

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<tr>
<td>11/27/13</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</strong></td>
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<td>12/4/13</td>
<td><strong>FINAL DISCUSSION</strong></td>
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**IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS AND RESEARCH BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE**
ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT OPTIONS

1) Bibliographic Essay Option: Political history of Puerto Rican, Mexican American, or other Latino community

You may choose to write a bibliographic research essay and literature review, exploring some aspect of the Puerto Rican, Mexican American, or other Latino community's political life. This bibliographic essay will focus on a single theme, and annotate the literature on that theme. Your bibliography will be distributed to the seminar on December 4, and your completed bibliographic essay must be turned in no later than December 11.

2) In-Class Presentation Option: Research Review, from Supplemental Texts

A second option is an in-class presentation. Your presentation will summarize research findings from any TWO of the titles in the Recommended Book list. Did you find that the books' conclusions reinforce, or contradict, one another? Your final, polished and professional presentation will be delivered to the class at our final meeting, on December 4.