

Latinos in U.S. Politics
Political Science 124B / Chicano/Latino Studies 151A
Winter 2011

Professor Louis DeSipio

SSPB 5283

824-1420

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2-4, and by appointment

Teaching Assistants (subject to change – TA office hours and office locations to be posted to the class web site during Week 1):

Kristine Coulter

Sierra Powell

Course Web Site: <https://eee.uci.edu/11w/67190>

Course Overview

A cursory read of major newspapers or a listen to news commentators would suggest that Latinos are among the most desired votes in national and state politics, more for their potential future role than for their current contributions to politics. In order to capture this growing electorate, parties, candidates, and leaders are experimenting with new outreach strategies. The Latino position in national, state, and local politics has both substantive and symbolic dimensions. Even at the symbolic level, the outreach represents a significant improvement over the neglect that Mexican Americans and other Latinos long experienced in U.S. politics. In this course, we will examine the foundations and contradictions of contemporary Latino politics.

This course also examines the role of Latino communities in shaping state and national politics in the United States. After we review the political history and political organizational strategies of Latinos, we will examine their contemporary modes of political organization; analyze public policy issues that concern them; evaluate the successes and failures of Latino empowerment strategies; and measure the electoral impact of Latino votes. Though this careful examination of Latinos in U.S. politics, we will develop a richer understanding of contemporary U.S. politics and will be able to develop some hypotheses about its trajectory in the 21st Century.

Course Readings

Readings are taken from two sources. I will ask that you read three books as well as a collection of articles available on the class website. The books are available from local bookstores. I identify readings on the website with a “**.” The books are:

David Gutierrez. 1995. *Walls and Mirrors: Mexican Americans, Mexican Immigrants and the Politics of Ethnicity*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Luis Ricardo Fraga, et. al. 2010. *Latino Lives in America: Making it Home*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Rodolfo O. de la Garza, Louis DeSipio, and David L. Leal, eds. 2010. *Beyond The Barrio: Latinos and the 2004 Elections*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press.

Course Requirements and Grading

I will evaluate your performance in the class in two ways. These include: 1) three analytical essays on course readings and lectures and 2) a final exam during finals week.

Essays: I will assign three analytical essay questions throughout the semester. Each essay should be between six and eight pages. The questions are posted to the class web site.

These essays will ask you to evaluate arguments made in course readings and themes raised in class discussions. You will be able to answer the essay based on the course readings and I will not expect you to do additional research. The essays will be due on (Essay #1) January 25, (Essay #2) February 24, and (Essay #3) March 8.

Final exam: The final exam is on March 18. The exam will include short answer and essay questions that will ask you to analyze and synthesize class readings, discussions, and lectures. We will discuss the exact format prior to the exam and I will welcome your input on how to design an exam that best tests your knowledge of the material.

Grading: You will be required to complete three of these four assignments and each will be worth 1/3 of your final grade for the class. You may complete whichever three you prefer and I would encourage you to pick assignments that do not conflict with assignments in other classes. You may skip the final exam if you have completed the three essays. If you are dissatisfied with a grade that you receive on one of these assignments, you may complete all four assignments; I will only count three highest grades when I calculate your final class grade.

Extra Credit: I will bring to your attention opportunities to attend events on campus that relate to Latino politics. I can't predict in advance how many of these events there will be or when they will occur. If you hear of an event that you think might be relevant, please bring it to my attention. To earn extra credit, I will require that you attend the event and write a description of no more than one page summarizing the key points. You can earn up to one point of extra credit (1 percent of your final grade) for each of these summaries that you submit, up to a maximum of 5 points. That said, I can't guarantee that there will be five such events.

Course Schedule and Assigned Readings

January 4 – 1) Introduction to Class and Overview of Course Requirements
2) How do you Start (Political) History? Consequences for Latino Politics to When you Begin the Story?

Part One:

Roots of Collective Political Demand Making

January 6 – War, Destruction and Rebirth – The Roots of the Mexican American Experience
Gutierrez, introduction and Chapter 1-2

** Griswold del Castillo, Richard. 1989. *The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo: A Legacy of Conflict*, chapters 3 and 5, pp. 30-42 & 62-86.

January 11 – Laying the Foundation for Contemporary Mexican American Politics ... and its Core Debates

Gutierrez, chapter 3

** Orozco, Cynthia E. 2010. *No Mexicans, Women, or Dogs Allowed: The Rise of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement*. Austin: University of Texas Press, Chapter 6 ("LULAC's Founding"), pp. 151-180.

Video shown in class: *The Lemon Grove Incident* (available at the Library: LC2688.L47 L466 1985)

January 13 – Opportunities and Limits of Pluralism Before the Latino Era (1940-1965)

Gutierrez, chapter 4

** Ruiz, Vicki. 2005. "Luisa Moreno and Labor Activism." In Vicki L. Ruiz and Virginia Sánchez Korrol, eds. *Latina Legacies: Identity, Biography, and Community*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 175-192.

January 18 – The Chicano Movement and the Roots of the Latino Era

Gutierrez, chapters 5, 6, and epilogue

Video excerpt shown in class: *Chicano! History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement* (available at the Library: E184.M5 C4 1996)

January 20 – Colonialism, Puerto Rico, and the Emergence of Puerto Rican Ethnic Identity

** Trías Monge, José. 2001. "Injustice According to the Law: The *Insular Cases* and Other Oddities." In Christina Duffy Burnett and Burke Marshall, eds. *Foreign in a Domestic Sense: Puerto Rico, American Exceptionalism, and the Constitution*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, pp. 226-240.

** Sánchez Korrol, Virginia. 2005. "Building the New York-Puerto Rican Community, 1945-1965: A Historical Interpretation." In Gabriel Haslip-Viera, Angelo Falcón, and Félix Matos Rodríguez, eds. *Boricuas in Gotham: Puerto Ricans in the Making of Modern New York City*. Princeton, NJ: Markus Wiener Publishers, pp. 1-18.

January 25 – The Puerto Rican Movement and the Ongoing Question of Status in Puerto Rico

** Trías Monge, José. 1997. "Puerto Rico: The Trials of the Oldest Colony in the World. New Haven: Yale University Press, chapter 15 ("Possible Paths to Decolonization"), pp. 177-196. Video shown in class: *Palante, siempre palante!: The Young Lords* (available at the Library: F128.9.P85 P25 1996]

Essay #1 due at the beginning of class

January 27 – Cuban Émigrés and a Different Path to Latino Ethnic Identification and Politics

** Croucher, Sheila L. 1997. *Imagining Miami: Ethnic Politics in a Postmodern World*. Charlottesville, VA: University Press of Virginia, chapter 4 ("The Success of the Cuban Success Story"), pp. 102-141.

** Portes, Alejandro, and Alex Stepik. 1993. *City on the Edge: The Transformation of Miami*. Berkeley: University of California Press, chapter 2 ("A Year to Remember: Mariel"), pp. 18-37.

Part Two

Latinos and the Politics of Pan-Ethnicity

February 1 – From Mexican American/Chicano, Puerto Rican, and Cuban to Latino: Community and Competing Conceptions of Politics

** Padilla, Felix. 1984. "On the Nature of Latino Ethnicity." *Social Science Quarterly* 65, pp. 651-664.

February 3 – The Voting Rights Act and the Protection of Latino Electoral Participation

** DeSipio, Louis. 2004. "The Pressures of Perpetual Promise: Latinos and Politics, 1960-2003." In David Gutierrez, ed. *The Columbia History of Latinos Since 1960*. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 421-465.

February 8 – Immigration and the Diversification of the Latino Ethnicity and the Geographic Dispersion of Latino Communities

Fraga, et. al., chapters 1, 2, and 5.
de la Garza, DeSipio, and Leal, chapter 12.

February 10 – Latino Civic and Transnational Engagement

Fraga, et. al., chapter 6

** Guarnizo, Luis E. 1997. "Los Domincanyorks: The Making of a Binational Society." In Mary Romero, Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, and Vilma Ortiz, eds. *Challenging Fronteras: Structuring Latina and Latino Lives in the U.S.* New York: Routledge, pp. 161-174.

February 15 – Latino Electoral Participation: Opportunities and Limits

de la Garza, DeSipio, and Leal, chapters 1, 2, and 13.

** Manzano, Sylvia, and Gabriel R. Sanchez. 2010. "Take One for The Team? Limits of Shared Ethnicity and Candidate Preferences." *Political Research Quarterly*: 63 (3): 568-580.

February 17 – The Locus of Mobilization: Latinos and State and Local Elections.

de la Garza, DeSipio, and Leal, chapters 3, 4, 5, 6

February 22 – Latinos and the 2008 Elections: Lessons from the Past/Lessons for the Future
de la Garza, DeSipio, and Leal, chapters 7, 8, 9, and 10

** Lopez, Mark Hugo. 2008. The Hispanic Vote in the 2008 Election. Washington, D.C.: Pew Hispanic Center. <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/98.pdf>.

** Barreto, Matt A.; Luis R. Fraga; Sylvia Manzano; Valerie Martinez-Ebers; and Gary Segura. 2008. "Should They Dance With the One Who Brung 'Em?" Latinos and the 2008 Presidential Election." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. October: 753-760.

https://www.apsanet.org/imgtest/PSOct08BarretoFraga_etal.pdf.

Video Shown in Class: *Latinos '08* (Available from the Library: E184.S75 L367 2008)

February 24 – Latinos in the 2010 Election and in the Preparations for the 2012 Election

Reading to be assigned

Essay #2 due at the beginning of class

Part Three

Looking to the Future:

Issues, Latino Empowerment, and Inter-Group Cooperation

March 1 – Immigration, "Immigration Reform," and the Restructuring of Latino Politics

Review Gutierrez, chapter 6

** Barreto, Matt A.; Sylvia Manzano; Ricardo Ramirez, and Kathy Rim. 2009. Mobilization, Participation, and Solidaridad: Latino Participation in the 2006 Immigration Protest Rallies." *Urban Affairs Review* 44: 736-764. <http://uar.sagepub.com/content/44/5/736>.

** DeSipio, Louis. 2011. "Drawing New Lines in the Sand: A Retrospective Evaluation of Immigration Reform's Failure in 2006 and 2007." In Kim Voss and Irene Bloemraad, eds. *Rallying for Immigrant Rights*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

March 3 – Immigrant Incorporation and the Foundation of Future Latino Influence

Fraga, et. al, chapters 3 and 4.

March 8 – Race, White Ethnicity, and Local Politics

** Abrajano, Marisa A.; Jonathan Nagler; and R. Michael Alvarez. 2005. "A Natural Experiment of Race-Based and Issue Voting: The 2001 City of Los Angeles Elections." *Political Research Quarterly* 58 (2) (June): 203-218. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3595623>.

** Barreto, Matt A.; Fernando Guerra; Mara Marks; Stephen A. Nuño, and Nathan D. Woods. 2006. "Controversies in Exit Polling: Implementing a Racially Stratified Homogeneous District Approach." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 39 (3): 477-483. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20451787?origin=JSTOR-pdf>.

Essay #3 due at the beginning of class

March 10 – The Future of Latino and American Ethnic Politics

Fraga, et. al., chapters 7 and 8.

Final Exam – Friday, March 18, 10:30-12:30