

PLSC 4003: Latino Politics
SAMPLE SYLLABUS
Fall 2010—University of Arkansas—46852

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Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. & by appointment.

The Policies and procedures described in this syllabus apply to everyone in the course *including you!* Therefore, it doesn't matter how unique your situation is or how busy your life gets; I won't change the rules for you for any reason. Please don't ask me questions that have already been answered in this syllabus. **You are responsible** for knowing and following all of the policies and procedures described here. Thank you.

Course Description

This course analyzes the social, economic, and political issues impacting the Latino (or Hispanic) community in the United States. Equal attention is paid to how the community itself then responds to and influences these factors. More specifically, this course will cover topics as diverse as *immigration, mobilization, voting and political preferences, and representation*.

While the content of the course is certainly connected to popular politics, the focus will be on developing an academic understanding of the issues. Simply stated, this means that while media coverage and popular opinion will from time to time be relevant to our discussions, we will strive to identify what theoretical arguments or empirical evidence can be marshaled to substantiate our perspectives.

Required Text

Espino, Rodolfo, David L. Leal and Kenneth J. Meier (eds.) 2007. *Latino Politics: Identity, Mobilization, and Representation*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press.

Other required readings assigned throughout the semester from articles in academic journals, or sites, or from chapters in other texts, will be posted on the course **Blackboard** page. Please ensure that you have access, and that you know how to navigate the site. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE** to retrieve these readings, last-minute problems with accessing materials for the course are not a valid excuse for being unprepared!

Assignments

To be successful in this course you must complete all readings. Being fully prepared for class discussions, and the occasional reading quiz, is important, but completing all the readings is especially good preparation for the essay exams! On these essay exams you must demonstrate the ability to organize and support your ideas, and set them to paper cogently.

The class will have **2 *Essay Exams***, one at Midterm, and one at Finals. Each essay will be worth 100 points for a total of **200 points**. Essays will be graded for content and structure, not necessarily for grammar, but if the grammar interferes with conveyance of your ideas you will lose points. You will be given 3 possible prompts to prepare for, and be expected to answer 1, of my choosing, on the day of the exam. Prompts will be given approximately 2 weeks before the day of the exam. You will also be provided with a rubric explaining how to write a successful paper later in the course.

The class will also have a total of **10 *Reading Quizzes*** worth 20 points each for a total of **200 points**. The quizzes may be announced in the class session prior to the quiz, but some may be given by surprise at my discretion. Thus, though attendance will not be enforced, this is another reason to make it a priority to be in class, and on time.

From time to time all students may be given extra credit opportunities as a courtesy; extra credit **will not be assigned on an individual (or, case-by-case) basis**. These opportunities will be included on quizzes as extra questions not counting against your total score. You are not entitled to extra credit, however, so please **DO NOT EXPECT IT!**

Grades

The class is worth a total of **400 points**. The letter grades you receive will correspond to the following scale:

- A = 90% and above (358 points, or above)
- B = 80-89% (318 to 357 points)
- C = 70-79% (278 to 317 points)
- D = 60-69% (238 to 277 points)
- F = 59% and below (237 points, or below)

This is a standard grading scale, there will be **NO CURVE**; what you earn is what you get. However, be sure to account for rounding, for example: a score of 358 is 89.5% of the total, which, in my book, is an “A.” A score of 357, however, is 89% of the total, which is a “B.”

Policies

1. **Academic dishonesty**, including *plagiarism* (using words, ideas, materials or work without properly acknowledging and documenting the source), and *inappropriate collaboration* between students, **will be punished to the fullest extent** possible per the university's policies. I suggest you familiarize yourself with said policies by visiting:

<http://ethics.uark.edu/1622.htm>

2. By this point in your lives as students, you know what constitutes **unacceptable classroom behavior**. Do not put me in the uncomfortable position of having to ask you to leave the class!

3. There is only 1 make-up day for the quizzes and essays. That day is Saturday, **December 11, 2010**, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., plan accordingly! To qualify to make up a quiz or an essay exam you must have a **verifiable excuse (medical, religious, family-related, or university-sanctioned)** for having missed any and all assessments you plan to make up. The quizzes and the prompts will be different, and time will be too short to make up for an entire semester of neglect, thus you should avoid missing ANY of these assessments if you are planning to receive a passing grade.

4. Any student who requires special arrangements in order to meet course requirements due to a disabling condition must contact me as soon as possible so that the necessary accommodations can be made. Students must present **appropriate documentation from the disability center** in order to receive special arrangements. Please visit:
<http://cea.uark.edu/>

5. In the event that **extremely severe weather** forces closure of the university, **class will be canceled**. I will attempt to contact you via e-mail, but you should check the local television stations for information as well.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (August 23—August 27)

8/24: **Course Introduction**

- Distribute syllabus.
- Explain course objectives/policies.
- Brief in-class exercise/discussion.

8/26: **Latino Identity**

- Must have read: Wallerstein, Immanuel. 2005. "Latin@s: What's in a name?"
<http://www.sociologistswithoutborders.org/essays/LATINOS.pdf>
- Must have read: Márquez, Benjamin. "Latino Identity Research: Problems and Opportunities." Pp. 17-26 in *Latino Politics*.

Week 2 (August 30—September 3)

8/31: Politics of Identity

- Must have read: Junn, Jane. 2006. "Mobilizing Group Consciousness: When Does Ethnicity Have Political Consequences?" Pp. 32-47 in Taeku Lee, S. Karthick Ramakrishnan and Ricardo Ramírez (eds.) *Transforming Politics, Transforming America: The Political and Civic Incorporation of Immigrants in the United States*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press.

9/2: Politics of Identity cont'd

- Must have read: Leal, David L. "Latino Public Opinion: Does it Exist?" Pp. 27-43 in *Latino Politics*.

Week 3 (September 6—September 10)

9/7: Immigration

- Must have read: Massey, Douglas S. 1990. "The Social and Economic Origins of Immigration." *Annals of the Academy of Political and Social Sciences* 510: 60-72.

9/9: Immigration cont'd

- Must have read: Huntington, Samuel P. 2004. "The Hispanic Challenge." *Foreign Policy* March/April: 30-45.

Week 4 (September 13—September 17)

9/14: Immigration Politics

- Must have read: Jones-Correa, Michael. "Fuzzy Distinctions and Blurred Boundaries: Transnational, Ethnic and Immigrant Politics." Pp. 44-60 in *Latino Politics*.

9/16: Panel Presentation

- A discussion of *Latin American Independence* at the **Multicultural Center** of the Arkansas Union. Attendance at the event is mandatory, more information as it becomes available.

Week 5 (September 20—September 24)

9/21: Transnationalism

- Must have read: Jones-Correa, Michael. 1998. "Explaining Participation: Why it Takes so Long to Become a Citizen." Pp. 49-65 in Michael Jones-Correa *Between Two Nations: The Political Predicament of Latinos in New York City*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

9/23: **Transnationalism cont'd**

- Must have read: Cain, Bruce and Brendan Doherty. 2006. "The Impact of Dual Nationality on Political Participation." Pp. 89-105 in Taeku Lee, S. Karthick Ramakrishnan and Ricardo Ramírez (eds.) *Transforming Politics, Transforming America: The Political and Civic Incorporation of Immigrants in the United States*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press.
- Pass out prompts for Midterm Essay Exam.

Week 6 (September 27—October 1)

9/28: **Participation**

- Must have read: Pantoja, Adrian D., Ricardo Ramírez and Gary M. Segura. 2001. "Citizens by Choice, Voters by Necessity: Patterns in Political Mobilization by Naturalized Latinos." *Political Research Quarterly* 54: 729-750.

9/30: **Participation cont'd**

- Must have read: Barreto, Matt A., Gary M. Segura and Nathan D. Woods. 2004. "The Mobilizing Effect of Majority-Minority Districts on Latino Turnout." *American Political Science Review* 98: 65-75.

Week 7 (October 4—October 8)

10/5: **Cross-border Politics**

- Summary Lecture.

10/7: **Midterm Essay Exam**

Week 8 (October 11—October 15)

10/12: **Incorporation**

- Must have read: Hero, Rodney E. 1992. "The History and Socio-economic Status of Latino Groups." Pp. 31-55 in Rodney E. Hero *Latinos and the U.S. Political System: Two-Tiered Pluralism*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

10/14: **Incorporation cont'd**

- No reading. Will watch a film on the Supreme Court case of *Hernandez v. Texas* (1954) in class.

Week 9 (October 18—October 22)

10/19: **Incorporation cont'd**

- Must have read: de la Garza, Rodolfo O., Angelo Falcon and F. Chris Garcia. 1996. "Will The Real Americans Please Stand Up: Anglo and

Mexican-American Support of Core American Political Values.” *American Journal of Political Science* 40: 335-351.

10/21: **Incorporation cont’d**

- Must have read: Finifter, Ada W. and Bernard M. Finifter. 1989. “Party Identification and Political Adaptation of American Migrants in Australia.” *Journal of Politics* 51: 599-630.

Week 10 (October 25—October 29)

10/26: **Linked Fate**

- Must have read: McClain, Paula D. et al. 2006. “Racial Distancing in a Southern City: Latino Immigrants’ Views of Black Americans.” *Journal of Politics* 68: 571-584.

10/28: **Linked Fate**

- Must have read: Rocha, René R. 2007. “Cooperation and Conflict in Multiracial School Districts.” Pp. 161-176 in *Latino Politics*.

Week 11 (November 1—November 5)

11/2: **Linked Fate cont’d**

- Must have read: Rodrigues, Helena Alves and Gary M. Segura. 2007. “A Place at the Lunch Counter: Latinos, African Americans, and the Dynamics of American Race Politics.” Pp. 142-160 in *Latino Politics*.

11/4: **Linked Fate cont’d**

- Must have read: Huddy, Leonie and Simo Virtanen. 1995. “Subgroup Differentiation and Subgroup Bias Among Latinos as a Function of Familiarity and Positive Distinctiveness.” *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* 68: 97-108.

Week 12 (November 8—November 12)

11/9: **Representation**

- Must have read: Casellas, Jason P. 2007. “Latino Representation in Congress: To What Extent Are Latinos Substantively Represented?” Pp. 219-231 in *Latino Politics*.

11/11: **Representation cont’d**

- Must have read: Espino, Rodolfo. 2007. “Is There a Latino Dimension to Voting in Congress?” Pp. 197-218 in *Latino Politics*.

Week 13 (November 15—November 19)

11/16: Social Capital

- Must have read: Putnam, Robert D. 2007. “E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the Twenty-first Century.” *Scandinavian Political Studies* 30: 137-174.

11/18: Social Capital cont’d

- Must have read: Ramakrishnan, Karthick S. 2006. “But Do They Bowl? Race, Immigrant Incorporation, and Civic Voluntarism in the United States.” Pp. 243-259 in Taeku Lee, S. Karthick Ramakrishnan and Ricardo Ramírez (eds.) *Transforming Politics, Transforming America: The Political and Civic Incorporation of Immigrants in the United States*. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press.

Week 14 (November 22—November 26)

11/23: Latinos and Social Capital

- Must have read: Manzano, Sylvia. 2007. “Bonding and Bridging: Latinos and Social Capital.” Pp. 123-141 in *Latino Politics*.
- Pass out prompts for Final Essay Exam.

11/25: No class (THANKSGIVING DAY)

Week 15 (November 29—December 3)

11/30: Future Research

- Must have read: Meier, Kenneth J. 2007. “What Don’t We Know and Why Don’t We Know It: One Research Agenda in Latino Politics.” Pp. 280-290 in *Latino Politics*.

12/2: Domestic Politics

- Summary Lecture.

Week 16 (December 6—December 10)

12/7: Final Essay Exam

- Last day of classes for people NOT requiring make-ups.

12/9: No Class (Finals Week)

12/11: Make-Up Day

- SEE *POLICIES* SECTION FOR DETAILS.