

Pol Sci 181B/Chicano Studies M155B – U.S. Latino Politics
University of California, Los Angeles

Tuesday & Thursday
3:30pm – 4:45pm
Bunche 1209B

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Office Hours: Weds. 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Course Description:

This class will examine the history and contemporary role of Hispanics/Latinos in the U.S. political system. We begin with a brief historical analysis of Latino immigration and migration, followed by the struggles during the civil rights movement, then increases in citizenship, registration and voting in the 1980s and 1990s, and finally we address the new wave of anti-immigrant attitudes, and the response by Latinos today. The class will also focus on political relationships between Latinos and non-Latinos as they relate to political institutions, political parties, voting coalitions, representation and public policy – including a focus on Latinos role in recent presidential elections in 2008, 2012, and 2016. We will start each class session with a discussion of politics and current affairs news that specifically relates to Latinos in the U.S. – this content will appear on the final exam!

Finally, students will learn how to analyze data on Latino public opinion, voting behavior and political attitudes using the Latino National Survey (LNS) or the American National Election Study (ANES) 2016 dataset on a broad range of topics. Students can select to work on any political, policy, social issue topic and public opinion data will be provided. Students will conduct basic analysis to answer questions about how Latinos view the political system and why.

Books:

Each week there will be required readings from one or more of these books. Readings should be done for the day they are assigned. For many weeks, the required readings are posted online, or distributed as a handout.

- Garcia, F. Chris and Gabriel Sanchez. 2008. *Hispanics and the U.S. Political System*. Pearson/Prentice Hall.
- Barreto, Matt and Gary Segura. 2014. *Latino America: How America's Most Dynamic Population is Poised to Transform the Politics of the Nation*. Public Affairs Press.

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Grading:

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| Attendance in section | 25 points |
| Final Exam | 50 points |
| Research Project | 25 points |

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| TOTAL | 100 points |
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Extra Credit:

Throughout the quarter, there will be opportunities to attend various events, talks, and symposiums on campus that are related to racial and ethnic politics which will count for small, **but important**, extra credit points. You must get permission BEFORE you attend an event that your TA or Professor will count the even as extra credit. After attending, you must write a one page summary of the event.

Weekly Class Agenda

Week 1: Introduction

- Oct 1 Intro to Latino Politics [Garcia and Sanchez, ch 1, ch 2]
- Oct 3 Latino diversity and unity [Latino America, ch 2, Garcia & Sanchez, ch 3]

Week 2: The emerging Latino electorate

- Oct 8 Public opinion & Central Americans in the U.S. [Latino America, ch 3]
- Oct 10 Population Growth vs. Voting Strength [Latino America, ch 4]

Week 3: Latino political participation

- Oct 15 Patterns of political participation [Garcia and Sanchez, ch5, ch7]
- Oct 17 Latino partisanship and ideology [Garcia and Sanchez, ch8]

Week 4: Mobilizing the Latino Vote

- Oct 22 Lessons from California [Latino America, ch 9]
- Oct 24 Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) [Garcia and Sanchez, ch6 & online]

Week 5: The Latino vote in recent elections

- Oct 29 Latinos and the 2008 presidential election [Latino America, ch 5-6]
- Oct 31 Latinos and the 2010 midterms [Latino America, ch 7]

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Week 6: The Latino vote in recent elections

- Nov 5 Latinos and the 2012 presidential election [Latino America, ch8]
Nov 7 Latinos and the 2014 midterms [Latino America, ch 10]

Week 7: The Latino vote in 2016

- Nov 12 The 2016 election, part 1 [Santa Ana, Sanchez & Gomez-Aguinaga]
Nov 14 The 2016 election, part 2 [Barreto et. al., Lavariega]

Week 8: The Latino vote in 2018

- Nov 19 The 2018 midterm elections [Barreto, Segura, Morales]
Nov 21 Meet in Social Science Computing Lab (Public Affairs 2035B)
ATTENDANCE MANDATORY!
Overview on research project and detailed instructions

Week 9: THANKSGIVING BREAK

- Nov 26 Work on data analysis of public opinion data
Nov 28 *No class – Thanksgiving break*

Week 10: Independent research and writing

- Dec 3 Work on data analysis and slide deck for final project

Dec 5 Work on data analysis and slide deck for final project

Finals Week:

- Dec 12 In-class final exam – 11:30pm
Final public opinion project due

Finally, let me provide some clarification on what I am expecting for the final on the public opinion project. There is no paper, just a final report which will be turned in as a PowerPoint or similar presentation file. In addition to the presentation file, you will also turn in something called a ".do file" which we will go over on November 21st in the computer lab. A .do file is just your saved commands and notes from the data exercise, basically just showing the work you did.

The presentation - which you are just turning in, not delivering a presentation - should be 12 slides long, including a cover page with title and your name, a description of the dataset we are using, statement of your research question and topic, review of what the course readings have stated on this topic, and then the tables and charts depicting your results, and a conclusion. If you have been doing all the readings and attending lecture, this should be very straightforward. We will go over all the details of how to analyze the dataset on Nov 21, and then you have over two full weeks to complete the data analysis and presentation where we have no new lecture material or class meetings in Bunche.