

Political Science 186

The Politics of Latino Identity

Online

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00pm- 2:00 pm

link on CCLE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Latinos come from many countries spanning North, South, and Central America. In this class, we will focus on understanding who counts as Latino, and what it means to belong to this panethnic group.

Specifically, we will focus on identity- differences between national origin groups, the creation of a panethnic group identity, and how these identities influence political participation. We will explore how Latinos have become a group in the United States, and investigate the similarities and differences of group members. This course will also touch on assimilation theory in an effort to understand what it means to be Latino. Should we expect Latinos to maintain this unique identity for generations to come, and what can Latino identity can tell us about political participation?

By the end of this course, you should be able to understand the differences and similarities between national origin groups, and explain how these differences impact political participation. You will better understand what it means to belong to a pan-ethnic group and be able to discuss the benefits and costs of panethnicity. In addition to knowing current trends in political participation, we will learn about the history behind these trends in order to contextualize and fully understand why these patterns exist.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

GRADING

Quizzes.....	30%
Discussion Board.....	20%
Assignments	20%
Final Paper.....	30%

- **Attendance**

In light of the recent health crisis, UCLA will be conducting classes online for Summer session A. In an effort to meet student needs, students will be asked to complete assignments and discussion posts based off of the week's reading material and videos. We will not be holding live classes, but you are welcome to participate in live Zoom office hours which will be held during the regularly scheduled course time.

- **Discussion Board**

There will be two different boards subjects each week and students must post in both. Some may be based on the reading or videos, while others may have to do with current events or other topics related to Latino politics or Latino identity. Students must also reply to 1 post in each discussion board. You may reply to all discussion board posts unless I give explicit instructions otherwise. All discussion board posts should be submitted by Thursday at 11:59pm.

- **Assignments**

As with most classes, I expect that you complete the assigned reading prior to each week's class, and turn in your assignments on time. Assignments will be due during weeks 3 and 5. You may turn in late assignments, but for every day that your assignment is late, 5 points will be deducted from your overall assignment grade unless you email me and make arrangements beforehand. Any assignment that is submitted 5 or more days after the due date without a granted extension will not receive higher than 75%.

- **Quizzes**

There will be 3 quizzes, they will be held weeks 2,4, and 6. Each quiz will cover two weeks worth of content. I recognize that not all students may feel like they are strong quiz takers. I will adjust quiz settings to allow multiple attempts. Quizzes will be due by Thursday at 11:50pm.

- **Final Paper**

In lieu of a final exam, students are to submit a final paper. The paper should be 5-7 pages in length and use a minimum of 5 scholarly sources. This means that your sources must come from academic books and journals. You may use course materials for your sources but you must have 2 outside sources that do not come from material that is listed on the syllabus. The topic for your final paper will be released during week 1.

Should the need arrive, I reserve the right to amend this syllabus.

READINGS

Most of the readings will be articles or book chapters that will be uploaded to CCLE. However, there is one book that you are required to purchase and that is Christina Mora's *Making Hispanics* which we will be reading during week 1. It is available online through the university bookstore, but you can also purchase the book or e-reader on Amazon or other online outlets.

Mora, G. C. (2014). *Making Hispanics: How activists, bureaucrats, and media constructed a new American*. University of Chicago Press.

<https://www.amazon.com/Making-Hispanics-Activists-Bureaucrats-Constructed/dp/022603383X>

VIDEOS

In addition to weekly readings, we will also have a weekly 1 hour video on Latinos in the United States. We will go through the Latino America series on PBS chronologically starting with video 1 during our first week. Information from these videos may be used for discussion board posts or integrated into weekly quizzes or assignments. Links to the videos can be found under each week on CCLE or accessed directly at: <https://www.pbs.org/latino-americans/en/watch-videos/#2365075996>

RESOURCES

An excellent resource to assist with writing assignments is the writing center. Students can make appointments at the writing center to have someone work with them one on one to develop a thesis, learn how to organize ideas, or get assistance on effective proofreading strategies. <http://wp.ucla.edu/wc/about-uwc/services/>.

Counseling and Psychological Services: (310) 825-0768,
www.counseling.ucla.edu

COURSE SCHEDULE

The Creation of a Panethnic Identity

Week 1 June 23rd & 25th

- Tuesday: Mora, G. C. (2014). *Making Hispanics: How activists, bureaucrats, and media constructed a new American*. University of Chicago Press. Intro through chapter 1 (pages 1-50)

- Thursday: Mora, G. C. (2014). Making Hispanics: How activists, bureaucrats, and media constructed a new American. University of Chicago Press. Chapter 2-3 (pages 50-119)

Latino America Video 1

The Creation of a Panethnic Identity

Week 2 June 30th & July 2nd

- Tuesday: Mora, G. C. (2014). Making Hispanics: How activists, bureaucrats, and media constructed a new American. University of Chicago Press. Chapter 4-conclusion (pages 119-155)
- Thursday: Beltrán, C. (2010). The trouble with unity: Latino politics and the creation of identity. Oxford University Press. (Selected Chapters)

Latino America Video 2

Quiz due by July 2nd 11:59pm pst

Understanding Ethnic Identity and Political Differences

Week 3 July 7th & July 9th

- Tuesday: Barreto, M., & Segura, G. (2014). Unity and Diversity (chapter 2) Latino America: How America's Most Dynamic Population is Poised to Transform the Politics of the Nation. Public Affairs.

Girard, C., Grenier, G. J., & Gladwin, H. (2012). Exile Politics and Republican Party Affiliation: The Case of Cuban Americans in Miami. *Social Science Quarterly*, 93(1), 42-57.

- Thursday: Rodriguez, N. P., Menjivar, C., Duany, J., & Feagin, J. (2009). Central American immigrants and racialization in a post-civil rights era. How the United States racializes Latinos: White hegemony and its consequences, 183-199.

Valle, A. J. (2019). Race and the Empire-state: Puerto Ricans' Unequal US Citizenship. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, 5(1), 26-40.

Ocampo Article Forthcoming

Latino America Video 3

Geography and Identity

Week 4 July 14th & 16th

- Wilcox-Archuleta, B. (2018). Local Origins: Context, Group Identity, and Politics of Place. *Political Research Quarterly*, 71(4), 960-974.

Ramirez, R. (2013). *State Contexts Mobilization, and the Evolving Latino Electorate in Mobilizing opportunities: The evolving Latino electorate and the future of American politics* (Ch1). University of Virginia Press.

- Thursday: Zepeda-Millàn, C. (2014). Perceptions of Threat, Demographic Diversity, and the Framing of Illegality: Explaining (Non)Participation in New York's 2006 Immigrant Protests. *Political Research Quarterly*, 67(4), 880-888.

Valenzuela, A. A., & Michelson, M. R. (2016). Turnout, status, and identity: Mobilizing Latinos to vote with group appeals. *American Political Science Review*, 110(4), 615-630.

Latino America Video 4

Quiz due by July 16th 11:59pm pst

A Racialized Latino Identity?

Week 5 July 21st & 23rd

- Tuesday: *Fluid Borders: Latino Power, Identity, and Politics in Los Angeles*. University of California Press. (Chapters 1 & 3)
- Thursday: Valdez, Z. (2009). Agency and structure in panethnic identity formation: The case of Latino entrepreneurs. In *How the United States Racializes Latinos: White Hegemony and its Consequences*, 200-213.

Latino America video 5

A Racialized Latino Identity?

Week 6 July 28th & 30th

- Tuesday: Garcia-Rios, S., Pedraza, F., & Wilcox-Archuleta, B. (2019). Direct and indirect xenophobic attacks: Unpacking portfolios of identity. *Political Behavior*, 41(3), 633-656.

Gutierrez, A., Ocampo, A. X., Barreto, M. A., & Segura, G. (2019). Somos Mas: How Racial Threat and Anger Mobilized Latino Voters in the Trump Era. *Political Research Quarterly*, 72(4), 960-975.

- Thursday: No reading. Turn in paper and all outstanding assignments.

Latino America Video 6

Quiz due by July 30th 11:59pm pst