

**Columbia University  
Department of Political Science**

**Latino Political Experience (W3260)**

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**Spring 2008**

**Monday/Wednesday 5:40pm-6:55pm**

**Hamilton Hall 503**

Office Hours: by appointment.

**Course Description**

This course examines the process of incorporation of Latinos into the political system of the United States. It analyzes the historical trajectory that established a presence of people from Spanish-speaking countries of North, Central and South America and the Caribbean in the United States and the dynamics that shape their current situation in the social, economic and political spheres in this country. The course will therefore present a historical analysis of empire-building and colonization, revolution and labor migration; discuss the process of political empowerment; analyze the factors that affect political participation; and review the issues that motivate Latino involvement in the political process and have shaped public policy in the United States.

**Course Requirements**

Academic performance will be measured with two exams, a research paper and class participation. There will be a mid-term take-home exam (25% of final grade), due in class on March 10, and a final exam (35% of final grade), scheduled for final's week. The final exam will be based on the content of the entire course, including lectures, readings, class discussion and film viewings. Students are expected to research, write and submit a paper (10-15 pages in length) on a subject bearing on the content of the course. The paper (25% of final grade) will be due in class on April 14. Students are to submit for approval and discuss with the instructor a short research proposal (no longer than two pages) by February 20. All students are expected to be active participants in class and are to be prepared to critically engage and discuss assigned readings as scheduled (15% of final grade). Absences and recurring lateness will detract from such participation and will consequently affect the participation grade.

The course is ruled by the regulations of the University as described in:

<http://www.college.columbia.edu/bulletin/universitypolicies.php#plagiarism>

The readings will be available at the Butler Library Reserve desk. Students are highly encouraged to purchase García (2003) as it will serve as the course's primary text. In addition, students may want to consider purchasing Gutiérrez (1995), Hardy-Fanta (1993) and Davis (2001) as they will be used extensively. A course pack is available for reproduction at the Village Copier on Amsterdam Avenue.

## Course Outline:

### I. Introduction: 1/23 & 1/28

Huntington (2004: all); García (2003: 1-71); Davis (2001: 1-23, 49-67);  
González (2000: ix-xx)

### II. Incorporation

#### A. Imperialism: 1/30 & 2/4

Gutiérrez (1995: 13-38); González (2000: 27-78)

#### B. Revolution: 2/6 & 2/11

García (1996:13-80)

#### C. International Labor Migration: 2/13 & 2/18

Gutiérrez (1995: 39-56, 133-150), Whalen (2001: 1-82)

### III. Latino Identity(ies) and Community Formation: 2/20 & 2/25

Oboler (1997: 31-54), Gutiérrez (1995: 56-133), De Genova & Ramos-  
Zayas (2003: Chap. 7: 175-210; Chap. 2: 31-56, suggested), Davis (2001:  
83-92), García (2003: 216-240)

### IV. Latino Political Participation: 2/27, 3/3, 3/5, 3/10 & 3/12

García (1996: 120-168; 199-215), García (2003: 73-108), Logan &  
Mollenkopf (2003: all), Moreno & Rae (1992: 186-203), U.S. v. Osceola  
County et al. (2006).

#### A. Empowerment

Chicano! The History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement  
Pa'lante, Siempre Pa'lante  
Saving Elián González

#### B. Micropolitics: 3/24, 3/26, 3/31, 4/2, 4/7 & 4/9

1. Political Orientations and Attitude  
2. Participation Modes: Electoral and Non-Electoral  
Schlozman (2002: 433-456), García (2003:109-165), National Survey of  
Latinos in America

#### C. Gender and Politics: 4/14 & 4/16

Hardy-Fanta (1993: all), Montoya (2002: 410-429)

### V. Public Policy Issues

#### A. Language and Education: 4/21

García (2003:187-199); Castro (1997: 279-296); Davis (2001: 131-149);  
Fuentes (1984: 127-137)

#### B. Immigration: 4/23

- García (2003: 166-186); Davis (2001: 25-37, 69-122)
- C. Inter-Ethnic Political Relations: 4/28  
Cruz (2000: 84-112); Saito (1998: 125-196); Stack & Warren (1992: 160-185)
- D. Federalism (Puerto Rico): 4/30  
Dávila & Jiménez (1983: 235-266); President's Task Force (2005: all);  
Burnett & Marshall (2001: 226-240, 241-250, 349-372)
- E. Foreign Policy: 5/5  
De La Garza & Pachón (2000: all)

### **Bibliography:**

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Burnett, Christina Duffy & Burke Marshall (eds.) (2001). *Foreign in a Domestic Sense: Puerto Rico, American Expansionism, and the Constitution*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. KF4635.F67

Castro, Max J. (1997). The Politics of Language in Miami. In Mary Romero, Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo and Vilma Ortiz (eds.) *Challenging Fronteras: Structuring Latina and Latino Lives in the United States*. New York, NY: Routledge, 31-54. E184.S75C467

Cruz, José E. (2000). Interminority Relations in Urban Settings: Lessons from the Black-Puerto Rican Experience. In Yvette Alex-Assensoh & Lawrence J. Hanks (eds.) *Black and Multiracial Politics in America*. New York, NY: New York University Press, 84-112. E185.615.B537

Dávila, Luis & Nélica Jiménez (1983). The American Statehood Process and Its Relevance to Puerto Rico's Colonial Reality. In Jorge Heine (ed.) *Time for Decision: The United States and Puerto Rico*. Lanham, MD: North-South Publishing Company, 235-266. F1976.T5

Davis, Mike (2001). *Magical Urbanism: Latinos Reinvent the U.S. City*. New York, NY: Verso. E184.S75.D36

De Genova, Nicholas and Ana Y. Ramos-Zayas (2003). *Latino Crossings: Mexicans, Puerto Ricans and the Politics of Race and Citizenship*. New York, NY: Routledge. F548.9.M5D44

De La Garza, Rodolfo, Louis DeSipio, F. Chris García, John A. García & Angelo Falcón. (1992). *Latino Voices: Mexican, Puerto Rican and Cuban Perspectives on American Politics*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. E184.S75.L365

De La Garza, Rodolfo O. & Harry P. Pachón (eds.) (2000). *Latinos and U.S. Foreign Policy: Representing the "Homeland"?* Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. E184.S75.L3685

Fuentes, Luis (1984). Puerto Ricans and New York City School Board Elections: Apathy or Obstructionism. In Jennings, James & Monte Rivera (eds.) *Puerto Rican Politics in Urban America*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 127-137. E184.P85.P8

García, F. Chris. (ed.) (1988). *Latinos and the Political System*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press. E184.S75.L368

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Jones-Correa, Michael. (1998). *Between Two Nations: The Political Predicament of Latinos in New York City*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. F130.S75.J66

Logan, John & John Mollenkopf (2003). *People and Politics in America's Big Cities*. New York, NY: Drum Major Institute for Public Policy. May 15, 2003.

Montoya, Lisa J., (2002). Gender and Citizenship in Latino Political Participation. In Suárez-Orozco, Marcelo M. and Mariela Pérez (eds.) *Latinos: Remaking America*. Berkeley, CA: university of California Press, 410-429. E184.S75.L37

Moreno, Darío & Nicol Rae (1992). Ethnicity and Partnership: The Eighteenth Congressional District in Miami. In Grenier, Guillermo & Alex Stepick (eds.) *Miami*

*Now: Immigration, Ethnicity and Social Change*. Gainesville, FL: University of Florida Press, 186-203. F319.M6M639

Oboler, Suzanne. (1995). *Ethnic Labels, Latino Lives: Identity and the Politics of (Re)Presentation in the United States*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press. E184.S75.O27

\_\_\_\_\_. (1997). "So Far From God, So Close to the United States": The Roots of Hispanic Homogenization. In Mary Romero, Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo and Vilma Ortiz (eds.) *Challenging Fronteras: Structuring Latina and Latino Lives in the United States*. New York, NY: Routledge, 31-54. E184.S75C467

Padilla, Félix. (1985). *Latino Ethnic Consciousness: The Case of Mexican Americans and Puerto Ricans in Chicago*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press. F548.9M5P32

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Saito, Leland T. (1998). *Race and Politics: Asian Americans, Latinos and Whites in a Los Angeles Suburb*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press. F869.M7S25

Schlozman Kay L. (2002). "Citizen Participation in America: What Do We Know? Why Do We Care" in Katznelson, I. and Milner H. (eds.) *Political Science: The State of the Discipline*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 433-461. JC11.P65

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Torres, Andrés and José E. Velázquez (eds.) (1998). *The Puerto Rican Movement: Voices from the Diaspora*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press. E184.P85.P77

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Whalen, Carmen Teresa (2001). *From Puerto Rico to Philadelphia: Puerto Rican Workers and Postwar Economies*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press. F158.9.P85W53

FILMS:

Chicano! The History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement  
Pa'lante, Siempre Pa'lante  
Saving Elián González