

Latino Immigration and American Politics- GOVT 417
Lafayette College, Fall 2013
Professor Brittany Perry

Time: MW: 2:45-4:00pm

Location: Kirby Hall of Civil Rights, 003

Office hours: Thursday noon-1 pm, Friday 2:15pm-3:30 pm and by appointment

Office Location: Kirby Hall of Civil Rights, 110



Course Description

This is an upper-level seminar investigating the role of Latino immigrants in the U.S. political system. The course will begin with an analysis of patterns of Latino immigration and theories of immigration. Next, we examine when and how both citizen and non-citizen Latinos engage in politics and to what extent these groups influence political outcomes. In particular, we will assess the effect that Latinos had on the 2012 election and how this growing population will shape politics and policy in the future.

With the aid of literature in political science, economics, and sociology, and data on public opinion, voting, and legislative behavior, the class will attempt to answer questions such as: “Why are Latinos immigrating to the United States and where are they coming from?” and “How will the two main political parties approach the Latino immigrant population post-2012?” We will take a behavioral approach to analyze the public opinion and political participation of Latino citizens and non-citizens and then work to assess the institutional consequences of the Latino immigrant presence. In addition, the course will examine how native-born American citizens react to Latino immigration and how the preferences of whites, blacks, and native Latinos are reflected in both pro- and anti-immigrant policy.

Overall, this course is designed to take an interdisciplinary approach to the study of Latino immigration. The goal is for students to integrate various theories and ideas in order to gain a more comprehensive view of Latino immigrants and their role in politics today.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Explain patterns of Latino immigration historically and today
- Analyze economic, social, and psychological theories of immigration generally and Latino immigration specifically
- Understand and apply theories of Latino politics and political behavior
- Assess real data on the public opinion, political participation, and political representation of non-citizen and citizen Latinos
- Develop and revise a research paper that addresses a question concerning Latino immigrants in the American political system

Course Prerequisites: GOVT 101 plus one from GOVT 207, 211, 215, 227, 258, 315, HIST 275 or permission from the instructor

Required Texts/Moodle

- You are not required to purchase any textbooks for this course. All articles and chapters will be available electronically on the course Moodle site found at: <http://moodle.lafayette.edu/>. If you do not have a Moodle site for this course or if you have trouble logging in, please let me know ASAP!!

Expectations and Assignments

- **Discussion Questions and Participation**

- STARTING SEPTEMBER 9th!!! Before each class, students are expected to submit **2** written questions to the Moodle course site. These questions should try to clarify, challenge, expand, or otherwise synthesize the material discussed in class and in the readings. All students must read the questions posed by their peers and be prepared to discuss these questions in class. Participation will be graded on the student's level of preparedness and the depth of their engagement with the material.
 - On a given day you will receive a participation score ranging from 0 to 3. My rubric is as follows:
 - 0: No participation
 - 1: Little participation (surface level engagement, little command of the material)
 - 2: Moderate to active participation (deeper engagement, solid understanding of the material)
 - 3: Active participation (asking challenging questions, going to the extra mile to understand and analyze the material)
 - *Note on Attendance:* You may have one unexcused absence without penalty. Beyond this, each unexcused absence will result in a 5% deduction from your final participation grade.
 - In addition to classwork, students are expected to attend and engage in assigned out-of-classroom activities. These will include two campus/local events related to the material discussed in this course, video nights (dates TBA), and required office hour/librarian/writing center visits. These activities contribute to the four credit hour requirement for this course.
 - If you have an excused absence for a scheduled out-of-class activity, you must meet with me to discuss a make-up assignment.

- **Writing Component**

- **Two analytical papers:** (5-6 pages, excluding the bibliography) will address major concepts covered in the course. You will choose to write on **two** of a choice of three

paper topics. A detailed description of the assignment will be posted on Moodle and discussed in class.

- Paper 1: **Due September 25th**
 - Paper 2: **Due October 16th**
 - Paper 3: **Due November 13th**
- **Final research paper:** The final project in this class will be a research paper, which will address a question (of your choosing) dealing with the role of Latino immigrants in American politics. There are 6 components of the research paper assignment that will happen sequentially (Note: these dates are subject to change based on the pace of the class and student preparedness):
- 1) Propose a research question (**due October 21st**)
 - 2) Submit annotated bibliography (**due November 6th**)
 - 3) Develop a rough draft (**due November 22nd**)
 - 4) Participate in a writing workshop (**November 25th**)
 - 5) Submit a final paper (12-15 double-spaced pages, 1 inch margins, 12-point font) (**due on Final Exam day: TBA**)
 - 6) Give a 10-15 minute in-class presentation on your final paper during the last week of class

Grading

- **Final Grade**

Participation	20%
Discussion Questions	10%
Written concept papers (2)	30% (15% each)
Final Research Paper	40%
Outline (5%)	
Rough Draft (5%)	
Final Paper (25%)	
Presentation (5%)	

- **Notes on Grading**

- Any student who is not satisfied with a grade on a given assignment must submit, in writing, a description of the issue in dispute (i.e. what is allegedly mis-graded and why you believe your work is correct). If necessary, I will set up a meeting with the student to discuss the issue. I will then decide whether to raise, lower, or leave the grade unchanged.
- **All late assignments will be docked one full letter grade for every day they are late.** Make sure you turn in everything on time.

Grading Scale

A+	100-98	B+	89-88	C+	79-78	D	69-60
A	97-93	B	87-83	C	77-73	F	<60
A-	92-90	B-	82-80	C-	72-70		

Other Requirements/Course Information

- **The Academic Honesty policy is taken seriously in this class.** Academic dishonesty, such as plagiarism or cheating, is a violation of College policy and may result in a failing grade and/or other disciplinary measures. Please review the guidelines on “Principles of Intellectual Honesty” (available in the Student Handbook at: http://studentlife.lafayette.edu/files/2011/08/studenthandbook_1112.pdf), which elaborate College policy on plagiarism and academic integrity.
- **You may NOT use your cell phone to email or text message in class.** Before you come to class, make sure that your cell phone is turned off and put away.
- You may use laptops in this class, however, if I see you emailing, surfing the Internet, or checking Facebook, I will ask you to put it away and take notes by hand.
- I also expect everyone in this class to be **RESPECTFUL OF THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS.** During class discussions, I ask that you be courteous of other students and the instructor at all times.
- **Accommodations for Students with Disability:** In accordance with Lafayette College policy, reasonable academic accommodations and support services will be available to students who have a documented disability. Students with disabilities should review the information available at: <http://attic.lafayette.edu/disability-services/>.

Federal Credit Hour Statement

The student work in this course is in full compliance with the federal definition of a four credit hour course. Please see the Registrar’s Office web site (<http://registrar.lafayette.edu/additional-resources/cep-course-proposal/>) for the full policy and practice statement.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments:

- *Please read in order of assignments*
- *This schedule is subject to slight modifications. New video nights and other events will be included as the semester proceeds. You will have advance notification of any changes.*

August 26: Introduction

August 28, September 2, 4: Latino Immigration

Examining historical patterns of Latino immigration to the U.S., exploring where Latinos immigrated from, where they settled overtime, and where they are settling today. We will also focus on the development of key U.S. immigration laws and their effects on Latino immigration patterns as well as key demographic features of the major Latino subpopulations living in the U.S. today.

Reading:

- Ewing, Walter. 2012. "Opportunity and Exclusion: A Brief History of U.S. Immigration Policy."
- Rosenblum et al. 2012. "Mexican Migration to the United States: Policy and Trends."
Focus on pages 1-13. Carefully skim the rest!
- Wasem, Ruth Ellen. 2009. "Cuban Migration to the United States: Policy and Trends."
- Motel, Seth and Eileen Patten. 2012. "The 10 Largest Hispanic Origin Groups: Characteristics, Rankings, Top Countries." Pew Hispanic Center.

Video Night:

- Bosch, Carles and David Trueba. 2002. *Balseros*. Bausen Films.

September 9, 11: Theories of Immigration

What is a theory? Analyzing general economic, social and institutional theories of immigration and comparing these to theories of Latino immigration specifically

Readings:

- Lin, Nan. 1976. *Foundations of Social Research*. New York: McGraw-Hill. Chapter 2.
- Massey et al. 1993. "Theories of International Migration: A Review and Appraisal."
Population and Development Review 19(3).
- Massey, Douglas S. and Kristin E. Espinosa 1997 "What's Driving Mexico-U.S. Migration? A Theoretical, Empirical and Policy Analysis." *American Journal of Sociology* 102 (4).

September 16, 18: Assimilation or Exclusion?

Assessing theories of assimilation and the debate on Latino assimilation trends today

Reading:

- Brown, Susan and Frank Bean. 2006. "Assimilation Models, Old and New: Explaining a Long Term Process." *Migration Policy Institute*.
- Huntington, Samuel P. 2004. "The Hispanic Challenge." *Foreign Policy* 141.
- Alba, Richard. 2006. "Mexican Americans and the American Dream." *Perspectives on Politics* 4 (2).

September 23, 25: Theories of Latino Politics

Analyzing theoretical frameworks for studying/understanding Latinos and the political process

Reading:

- Jones-Correa, Michael. 2007. "Fuzzy Distinctions and Blurred Boundaries: Transnational, Ethnic and Immigrant Politics." In *Latino Politics: Identity, Mobilization and*

Representation. ed. R. Espino, David L. Leal, and Kenneth J. Meier. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press.

- Hero, Rodney E. 1992. *Latinos and the U.S. Political System: Two-Tiered Pluralism* Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Chapter 2 and Chapter 11.

September 30, October 2: Political attitudes of Citizen and Non-Citizen Latino Immigrants
Examining the determinants of Latino immigrant policy attitudes and partisanship

Reading:

- Recent Poll Presented on *Latino Decisions*. TBD
- Branton, Regina 2007. "Latino Attitudes toward Various Areas of Public Policy." *Political Research Quarterly* 60 (2): 293-303.
- Rouse, Stella M. and Betina Cutia Wilkinson and James C. Garand. 2010. "Divided Loyalties? Understanding Variation in Latinos' Attitudes Toward Immigration." *Social Science Quarterly* 91(3).

October 7, 9, 16: Political participation: Citizen and Non-Citizen Latino Immigrants (Fall Break: October 14-15!)

Looking at political mobilization and voting behavior of naturalized Latinos and the political involvement of non-citizen Latinos. Focus on participation in the 2010 and 2012 elections

Reading:

- Pantoja, Adrian D., Ricardo Ramirez, and Gary M. Segura. 2001. "Citizens by Choice, Voters by Necessity: Patterns in Political Mobilization by Naturalized Latinos " *Political Research Quarterly* 54 (4).
- Pantoja, Adrian D., Ricardo Ramirez, and Gary M. Segura 2008. "Commentary on 'Citizens by Choice, Voters by Necessity: Patterns in Political Mobilization by Naturalized Latinos.'" *Political Research Quarterly* 61 (1).
- Sanchez, Gabriel. 2006. "The Role of Group Consciousness in Political Participation Among Latinos in the United States." *American Politics Research*. 34(4).
- Leal, David. 2002. "Political Participation by Latino non-citizens in the United States." *British Journal of Political Science* 22 (2).
- Bedolla, Lisa Garcia. 2006. "Rethinking Citizenship: Non-citizen Voting and Immigrant Political Engagement in the United States." In *Transforming Politics, Transforming America: The Political and Civic Incorporation of Immigrants in the United States*. ed. S. K. R. Taeku Lee, Ricardo Ramirez. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press.

Video Night:

- Smith, Susan. 2008. *Latinos 08*. PBS Home Video.

October 21: Research Paper/Writing Day

Reading: Farrell, Henry. 2010. Good Writing In Political Science: An Undergraduate Student's Short Illustrated Primer.

October 23, 28, 30: Political representation and effect on elections: Citizen and Non-Citizen Latino Immigrants

Assessing the substantive and descriptive representation of Latino immigrants and the influence these individuals are having on elected officials and candidates.

Reading:

- Griffin, John D. and Brain Newman. 2007. "The Unequal Representation of Latinos and Whites." *The Journal of Politics* 69(4).
- Casellas, Jason A. 2007. "Latino Representation in Congress: To What Extent are Latinos Substantively Represented?" In *Latino Politics: Identity, Mobilization and Representation* ed. D. L. L. Rodolfo Espino, Kenneth J Meier. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press.
- Wilson, Walter Clark. 2010. "Descriptive Representation and Latino Interest Bill Sponsorship in Congress." *Social Science Quarterly*. 91(4).
- Preuhs, Robert R. 2005. "Descriptive Representation, Legislative Leadership and Direct Democracy: Latino Influence on English-Only Laws in the States: 1984-2002." *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*. 5(3).

November 4, 6: Native Reactions to Latino immigration: Public Opinion

Assessing native attitudes on legal and undocumented immigration

Reading:

- McClain et al. 2009. "Black and White Americans and Latino Immigrants: A Preliminary Look at Attitudes in Three Southern Cities." Presented at *American Political Science Association Annual Conference*. September 2-6, 2009: Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Gay, Claudine. 2006. "Seeing Difference: The Effect of Economic Disparity on Black Attitudes toward Latinos." *American Journal of Political Science* 50(4): 982-997.
- Brader, Ted, Nicholas A. Valentino, and Elizabeth Suhay. 2008. "What Triggers Public Opposition to Immigration? Anxiety, Group Cues, and Immigration Threat " *American Journal of Political Science* 52 (4): 959-78.
- Hainmueller, Jens and Michael Hiscox. 2010. "Attitudes toward Highly Skilled and Low skilled Immigration: Evidence from a Survey Experiment." *American Political Science Review* 104 (1).

November 11, 13: Native Reactions to Latino immigration: Policy Creation

Analyzing the effect of mass attitudes on immigration policy and the passage of policy to restrict both citizen and non-citizen immigrants

Reading:

- Schuck, Peter H. 2007. "The Disconnect Between Public Attitudes and Policy Outcomes in Immigration." In *Debating Immigration*. ed. Carol M. Swain. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Tolbert, Caroline J. and Rodney E. Hero 1996. "Race/Ethnicity and Direct Democracy: An Analysis of California's Illegal Immigration Initiative." *The Journal of Politics* 58(3):806.
- Hero, Rodney and Robert R. Preuhs 2007. "Immigration and the Evolving American Welfare State: Examining Policies in the U.S. States." *American Journal of Political Science* 51 (3).
- Ramakrishnan, S. Karthick and Tom (Tak) Wong. 2010. "Partisanship, Not Spanish: Explaining Municipal Ordinances Affecting Undocumented Immigrants" In *Taking Local Control*. ed. Monica W. Varsanyi. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

November 18, 20: The future of Latino Immigrants in America

Looking at future trends in Latino immigration to the U.S. and predictions on Latino politics post-2012

Reading:

- Passel, Jeffrey S. and D'Vera Cohn 2008 "U.S. Population Projections: 2005-2050." In *Social and Demographic Trends* ed. P. R. Center: Pew Hispanic Center.
- Jones-Correa, Michael. 2012. "Contested Ground: Immigration in the United States." *Migration Policy Institute*.
- Hajnal, Zolton and Taeku Lee. 2012. "The Untold Future of American Politics." *New York Times*.

November 25: Writing Workshop

November 27-29: Thanksgiving Break

December 2, 4: In-class research presentations