

SAMPLE SYLLABUS
Latino Politics in the U.S.
Upper Level Undergraduate- T/TH
Unique Number
Semester Year

Instructor: Rachel Navarre
Office:
Office Hours:

email.
Class Time:
Class Location:

Course Description:

As the now largest minority group in the United States, Latinos political involvement has the possibility of transforming politics in the country and in Texas. This course aims to examine this history of Latinos in the United States. What do we know about Latino politics in America? How are Latinos represented and incorporated in to politics on the national and local level? Are Latinos distinctive in their political behavior and opinions? And if so, how?

This class will start by establishing what Latino means and covering the demographic information of this population. The focus then turns to Latino political incorporation and experiences across Latino groups. We will then look at political participation, voting, and representation. This class will also cover policy issues such as healthcare and Latinos, immigration and education.

Course Requirements: Students are required to attend each lecture and complete the assigned readings before each meeting of the class. The readings are meant to provide you with the necessary background information to participate in class discussions, which is required. You are expected to complete all assignments and turn them in at the beginning of class on the due date listed in the syllabus and to take the exams at the assigned time.

Required Text & Materials

Lisa García Bedolla, 2014. *Latino Politics* Second edition

Matt Barreto and Gary Segura. 2014. *Latino America: How America's Most Dynamic Population is Poised to Transform the Politics of the Nation*. Public Affairs Books.

Suggested Text and Materials

Next America (<http://www.theatlantic.com/special-report/next-america/>) and Pew Hispanic Trends (<http://www.pewhispanic.org>) offer demographic information and reports on how America's changing demography is leading to changes within the country.

Class Communication: In this class, I will use Canvas (a web-based course management system) accessed at <http://canvas.utexas.edu>. The syllabus, additional readings, and announcements will be posted on Canvas. Students are expected to check Canvas on a regular basis. Please refer to the ITS Help Desk at 512-475-9400 to find support in using Canvas. Important announcements may also be made during class, without other notice.

Class Email Policy: Before contacting the instructor about questions regarding class policies, please re-check the syllabus. I will only answer emails during my normal business hours, typically Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm. Please be aware that depending on the time you send me an email, and the time I check my email, you may receive an answer the following **business** day.

Email will be used to communicate class changes through Canvas. All students should become familiar with the University's official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student's responsibility to keep the University informed to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>.

The University of Texas Code of Conduct: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Scholastic Dishonesty: According to the University, “‘Academic dishonesty’ or ‘scholastic dishonesty’ includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two classes without the prior permission of the instructor), or the attempt to commit such an act” (General Information Catalogue Sec. 11–402. *Academic Dishonesty*).

By accepting this syllabus, you have agreed to avoid academic and scholastic dishonesty as outlined in the General Information Catalogue. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. For more information on scholastic dishonesty, please visit the Student Judicial services Web site at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>. If you require accommodation, it is your responsibility to bring your accommodation letter to me early in the semester so we can work out arrangements. It is also the student's responsibility to schedule exams with SSD.

Other Resources for Students: At UT, there are many resources for students dealing with academic or personal concerns. This website <http://www.utexas.edu/students/> provides links to many of these resources, including (but not limited to) Veteran Support Services, Diversity Services, the UT Campus Climate Response Team, the Sanger Learning Center for Academic Support and the Writing Center. These services are for you as a student, and I encourage you to use them as needed. The earlier you go to them, the more help and support they can provide.

The Behavioral Concerns Line (BCAL) number is 512-232-5050.

Religious Holy Days: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class or an examination in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Emergency Evacuation: Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>.

Grading: This course will use plus/minus grades. Scores of 0.50 and higher will be rounded up, and scores that are 0.49 or lower will be rounded down.

Your final grade will be made up of the following:

Exam One (25%)	Research Paper Rough Draft (10%)
Exam Two (25%)	Research Paper (25%)
Research Paper Proposal (5%)	Participation (10%)

Your final grade will be calculated and converted into a letter grade using the following percentages:

A >93	B- 80-82	D+ 67-69
A- 90-92	C+ 77-79	D 63-66
B+ 87-89	C 73-76	D- 60-62
B 83-86	C- 70-72	F <60

Exams: There will be two exams in this course. Each exam will be based both on readings and lectures. Exams will not be cumulative.

Research Paper: You will write an essay of 5 to 8 pages that will address a current issue in Latino Politics. This paper will require you utilize outside sources, and will be discussed in detail in class. You may choose to research a policy that affects Latinos (immigration, health policy, voter id laws), or another issue such as party identification, political knowledge, voter participation etc. As part of this paper you will be required to also turn in a proposal and rough draft.

Grading Appeals/Questions: After I have returned or made the grades available to the class on Canvas, you have one week from that day to question the grade. If you wish to appeal the grading on a question you must submit an appeal **in writing via email** that outlines your concerns, and why you think re-grading is required. Grades are confidential. If you wish to discuss your grades, please contact me to schedule an appointment or visit me during my office hours.

Absences/Makeup Exam Policies: You are required to attend exams. Unexcused absences from examinations will result in a score of zero for that exam. Make-ups will only be allowed under extreme emergencies (accident, illness, or university or legal obligation per the University Handbook). You must present prior documentation, such as a letter from your doctor or a letter from the appropriate university authority for university events if you need to take the make-up exam.

It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor about a missed exam. With the exception of documented hospitalization or other extreme circumstances, students are required to contact the instructor before the missed exam. In case of unexpected emergencies, the student must contact the instructor within three (3) days of missing the scheduled exam. If the student fails to do so, they will be assigned a zero for that exam.

The instructor reserves the right to change the format of the exam for any exam given outside of normally scheduled exam times. The instructor will inform the student of the time and date of makeup

Class Calendar and Reading Assignments

I reserve the right to adjust the schedule as needed. Each date lists the topic of class, the readings you should complete before that class starts and assignment due dates. If an assignment is due, it will be noted after the class topic. If a reading is not in the course textbooks, you will find a copy of it posted in Canvas or a link to the document

WEEK 1- Introduction- Who is Latino/a?

8/27 - Course Introduction

WEEK 2 Histories of Latinos in the United States and Demographics

9/1– Latino Identity in the United States

- Latino America, ch.2
- Jessica Lavariega Monforti, “Rhetoric or Meaningful Identifiers? Latina/os and Panethnicity” Latino/a Research Review 2007)

9/3- Latino Political Beliefs and Demographics

- Latino America ch.2

WEEK 3 Institutions and Structures, Introduction to Mexican-Americans

9/ 8 – Agencies and Structure

- Latino Politics, ch.2

9/10 - Mexican Americans – Early History

- Latino Politics ch.3

WEEK 4- Mexican Americans

9/15 Mexican Americans in the 20th Century

- Latino Politics ch.3

9/17 Mexican Americans and US Politics

- “From Cesar Chavez to the Denver Debate: Mexican-American Voters Finally Have Their Say” Time, Padgett (2012)

WEEK 5- Cuban-Americans

9/22 Cuban- American History

- Latino Politics ch.5

9/24- **Paper Discussion in Class**

Cuban Americans and current American Politics

- “Politics, cultures split Cuban- and Mexican-Americans” The Associated Press (2012) “10 Things to Know about Cuban American Voters” The Atlantic (2015)

WEEK 5 - Puerto Ricans

9/29- Puerto Ricans and their History

- Latino Politics ch.4

10/1 – **Paper Proposal Due** Puerto Rican Politics

- [“Influx of Puerto Ricans could be game-changer in country's biggest swing state”](#) Washington Post 2016

WEEK 6- Dominican-Americans and Central Americans

10/6 –Dominican Americans

- Latino Politics ch.6

10/8 Central Americans and American politics

- Latino Politics Ch7

WEEK 7- Central Americans and incorporation

10/13 – The “Latino” Voter

- [“Dominican-American seek a political say”](#) Pew Charitable Trusts (2015)
- [“The Myth of the Latino Voter”](#) The Atlantic
- [“Afro- Latino: A deeply rooted identity among Hispanics”](#) Pew Research Center

10/15- Incorporation

- Sonenshein, Raphael J. 2005. “Latino Incorporation Reaches the Urban Summit: How Antonio Villaraigosa Won the 2005 Los Angeles Mayor’s Race” *PS*.

WEEK 8 -EXAM and Voter Participation cont.

10/13- EXAM

10/15- Previous elections

- Latino America ch.6, 7

WEEK 9- Political Participation

10/20- Previous elections

- Latino America 7 & 8

10/22- The invisible giant?

- Latino America ch. 4 (non-voters)

WEEK 10 -2016 Elections and Non-electoral participation

10/27 - 2016 Election and Latinos

[“2016 electorate will be the most diverse in US history”](#) Pew Research

[“More Latinos Seek Citizenship to Vote Against Trump”](#) NYTimes

10/29 - Non-electoral politics

- Matt Barreto, Sylvia Manzano, Ricardo Ramírez and Kathy Rim. 2006. “Immigrant Social Movement Participation: Understanding Involvement in the 2006 Immigration Protest Rallies” *Urban Affairs Review*

WEEK 11- Representation

11/3 **ROUGH DRAFT DUE**

Substantive vs. Descriptive Representation

- Jason P. Casellas 2007. “Latino Representation in Congress: To What Extent Are Latinos Substantively Represented?” Pp. 219-231 in *Latino Politics*.
- Robert Preuhs 2007. “Descriptive Representation as a Means to mitigate backlash” *Political Research Quarterly*
- [“A Politician Walks Into King Taco ... A Look At The Political Term 'Hispandering'”](#) NPR Code Switch

11/5 Latino Representation Continued

WEEK 12- Public Opinion and Policy Introduction

11/10- Latino Public Opinion

- Latino America ch.3

11/12 Introduction to Policy

- Fraga, L., J. Garcia, R. Hero, M. Jones-Correa, V. Martinez, G. Segura. 2012. “Latino issues and policy preferences.” ch. 12 in *Latinos in new millennium*.

WEEK 13- Immigration

11/17 The Start of Immigration Activism

- Latino America 9&10

11/19 Current Immigration Debates

- Latino America 9&10

WEEK 14- Education Policy

11/24 Education Policy

- Fraga, L., J. Garcia, R. Hero, M. Jones-Correa, V. Martinez, G. Segura. 2012. "Hope and reality in Latino educational attainment." ch. 13 in *Latinos in new millennium*.

11/26 NO CLASS

WEEK 15- Healthcare and Wrap up

12/1 Healthcare

- Latino America ch.11

12/3 Class Wrap up- **FINAL PAPER DUE**

- 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*.

FINAL EXAM TBD