

# POL 168: Chicano/Latino Politics

Winter 2008

Lecture: M-W 2:10–3:30, 3:30–4:00, Wellman 226

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Professor: B. Jones

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## Course Description

Who are Chicanos? Chicanas? Latinos? Latinas? What are the political and social implications for the expansion of this population? Do Latino/as comprise a “race”? An ethnicity? Both? What are the facts, or “approximate” facts about immigration? What impact do/will Latinos have on political strategies? How might Latinos vote in the 2008 election? These are the kinds of questions we will ask and hopefully answer over the course of this quarter. In so-doing, you will be exposed to a variety of materials, both reading and visual. It is your job to approach these questions with an open-mind and with a healthy sense of curiosity. You will be asked to complete several class projects as well as actively participate in the class discussions.

## Course Requirements

There will be several assignments/projects I expect you to complete during the quarter. Some of these assignments will require the use of some sort of presentational software, like PowerPoint or Beamer (or any other format, so long as I can read it on my computer). If there is an issue with access to PowerPoint (or similar software), I need to know this within the first two weeks of class. In addition to class assignments, there will be two “mini-exams” that will be administered during the final 40 minutes of two different class sessions. The tentative dates for these exams are given below. There will be a comprehensive final given on December 11. Additionally, we will view two documentaries in class. After each, I will ask you to write a short response paper. Finally, part of your grade will be based on active participation in class discussions/simulations. The breakdown of your grade looks like this:

- Class assignments: 40 percent
- Two mini-exams: 20 percent (10 percent each)
- Final Exam: 30 percent
- Two documentary response papers: 5 percent (2.5 percent each)
- Active Participation: 5 percent.

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<sup>1</sup>This quarter, my department may have meetings scheduled during this time. Although it is unlikely, I may on occasion have to reschedule office hours. I will do so with advanced notice.

A detailed list of outside projects/assignments will be posted to the website along with the assignment's due dates.

## Reading

Several books and on-line articles will be assigned. The primary texts are John Garcia's *Latino Politics in America: Community, Culture, and Interests*; Kevin R. Johnson's *Opening the Floodgates*; Luis Albert Urrea's *The Devil's Highway*; and Rodolfo Espino, David L. Leal, and Kenneth J. Meier (eds) *Latino Politics: Identity, Mobilization, and Representation*. You will be expected to complete the reading assignments in a timely fashion.

## Course Policies

All exams must be taken at the time prescribed in the syllabus. Course assignments are due on the date given to you in class. Late assignments *will not be accepted*. Course assignments that are e-mailed to me or to the teaching assistants will *not be accepted*, unless otherwise noted and authorized by me. In saying course assignments will not be accepted, this means you will receive a grade of 0 on that particular assignment. You are also required to become familiar with the UC Davis Code of Academic Conduct (<http://sja.ucdavis.edu/cac.html>). Cheating, plagiarism, and harassment in any form will not be tolerated. Do not do these things. Also, in lecture and in discussions, cell phones must be turned off. Usage of cell phones (or any other personal communication devices) in class may affect your participation grade. Usage of cell phones (or any other personal communication devices) during exams will be viewed as cheating.

With respect to students with disabilities, students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

## Course Itinerary

Note: ELM references the book *Latino Politics: Identity, Mobilization, and Representation*.

## Community, Culture, and Acculturation Fear

Sept. 29: Introduction/Orientation to Class.

Oct. 1: What is Latino Politics Research?

Readings:

- Hero (forward; ELM)
- Espino and Leal (ELM) "Latino Politics: The State of the Discipline."
- Marquez (ELM) "Latino Identity Politics Research"

Oct. 6: Who are "Latinos"? Readings:

- Garcia, Chapters 1–2.

- Jones-Correa (ELM) “Fuzzy Distinctions and Blurred Boundaries: Transnational, Ethnic, and Immigration Policies.”

Oct. 8–13: Latino Sub-Groups, Demography, and Pan-Ethnicity: Common Interests or Separate Communities?

Readings:

- Garcia, Chapters 3–5.

Oct. 15: Acculturation, Assimilation, and the “Huntington Thesis.”

Readings:

- Samuel Huntington. “The Hispanic Challenge.” *Foreign Policy*. March/April 2004:  
<http://psfaculty.ucdavis.edu/bsjjones/hispanicchallenge.pdf>

Responses to Huntington:

- Jack Citrin, et al. “Testing Huntington: Is Hispanic Immigration a Threat to American Identity?” *Perspectives on Politics*. 2007.  
<http://psfaculty.ucdavis.edu/bsjjones/citrin.pdf>

- Gilbert G. Gonzalez. “The Hispanic Challenge or the Imperialist Challenge?” *Sage Race Relations Abstracts*.

<http://psfaculty.ucdavis.edu/bsjjones/gonzalez.pdf>

Oct. 20: View the documentary *Farmingville*.

## Political Participation, Public Opinion, and Electoral Politics

Oct. 22-27: **MINI EXAM 1: Last 40 minutes of class.**

Latino Public Opinion and Participation

Readings:

- Garcia, Chapter 6.
- Leal (ELM) “Latino Public Opinion: Does It Exist?”
- “The Role of Group Consciousness in Latino Public Opinion.” Author(s): Gabriel R. Sanchez Source: *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 59, No. 3 (Sep., 2006), pp. 435-446.

<http://psfaculty.ucdavis.edu/bsjjones/sanchez.pdf>

- “Political Knowledge and Issue Voting among the Latino Electorate.” Author(s): Stephen P. Nicholson, Adrian Pantoja, Gary M. Segura Source: *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 59, No. 2 (Jun., 2006), pp. 259-271

<http://psfaculty.ucdavis.edu/bsjjones/nichetal.pdf>

Oct. 27: African-Americans and Latinos: Conflict? Consensus?

Readings:

- Rodriguez and Segura (ELM) "A Place at the Lunch Counter: Latinos, African Americans, and the Dynamics of American Race Politics."
- "Seeing Difference: The Effect of Economic Disparity on Black Attitudes toward Latinos." Author(s): Claudine Gay Source: *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 50, No. 4 (Oct., 2006), pp. 982-997. <http://psfaculty.ucdavis.edu/bsjjones/gay2006.pdf>
- "Cracks in the Rainbow: Group Commonality as a Basis for Latino and African-American Political Coalitions." Author(s): Karen M. Kaufmann Source: *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 56, No. 2 (Jun., 2003), pp. 199-210. <http://psfaculty.ucdavis.edu/bsjjones/kaufmann.pdf>
- "Divided or Together? Conflict and Cooperation between African Americans and Latinos." Author(s): Kenneth J. Meier, Paula D. McClain, J. L. Polinard, Robert D. Wrinkle Source: *Political Research Quarterly*, Vol. 57, No. 3 (Sep., 2004), pp. 399-409 <http://psfaculty.ucdavis.edu/bsjjones/meieretal.pdf>

Oct. 29-Nov.3: Voting Rights and the Representation of Latino Interests.

Readings:

- Garcia, Chapters 7, 10.
- Espino (ELM) "Is There a Latino Dimension to Voting in Congress?"
- Casellas (ELM) "Latino Representation in Congress: To What Extent Are Latinos Substantively Represented?" • "Latinos, Anglos, Voters, Candidates, and Voting Rights." Author(s): Jonathan Nagler and R. Michael Alvarez Source: *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, Vol. 153, No. 1, Symposium: The Law of Democracy (Nov., 2004), pp. 393-432 <http://psfaculty.ucdavis.edu/bsjjones/alvnag.pdf>

Nov. 3: Mobilization and a Preview of the 2008 Election

Readings:

- Garcia, Chapters 8, 11.
- Other Readings on the 2008 Election TBA

Nov. 5: Election Roundup

Readings:

- Read *Sacramento Bee* and *New York Times* coverage of election PRIOR to coming to class!
- Be prepared to discuss implications of election for Latinos.

## Across the Wire: The Immigration Debate

Nov. 10-12: **MINI EXAM 2: Last 40 minutes of class.**

The Historical and Social Construction of "The Border"

Readings:

- Start reading Urrea's *The Devil's Highway* and Johnson's *Opening the Floodgates*.
- Garcia, Chapter 9.
- Pew Hispanic Trust Report: "Size and Characteristics of the Unauthorized Migrant Population in the U.S."

<http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=61>

Nov. 17: Immigration Attitudes: Fear and Perceptions of "The Other."

Readings:

- Johnson, Chapters 1-2.
- Jones et al. "All Along the Watchtower." (Unpublished Manuscript)
- Pew Hispanic Trust: "The Immigration Debate: Controversy Heats Up, Hispanics Feel a Chill." 2007.

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/659/immigration-debate>

Nov. 19-24: On the Border

Readings:

- Urrea (Entire Book needs to be completed).
- "Brutal Borders? Examining the Treatment of Deportees during Arrest and Detention." Scott Phillips, Jacqueline Maria Hagan and Nestor Rodriguez *Social Forces*, Vol. 85, No. 1 (Sep. 1, 2006), pp. 93-109.

<http://psfaculty.ucdavis.edu/bsjjones/phillips.pdf>

Nov. 26: View the documentary *Crossing Arizona*.

Dec. 1-3: Immigration Policy

Readings:

- Johnson (Entire Book needs to be completed).
- Other readings TBA.

**FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 11 at 3:30 pm**