COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class will consist primarily of lectures supplemented with videos, and student participation. We will examine the historical, social, political, economic, and cultural experiences and conditions of Latinos, the second largest racial/ethnic minority group in the United States. The focus of the course will be on people who can trace their origins to Mexico, the Caribbean, and countries of Latin America. The main emphasis will be on the experiences of Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans—the three largest U.S. Latino ethnic groups. However, considerable attention will be given to Dominicans, Salvadorans and many other Latino ethnic groups that are fast becoming a force in contemporary U.S. society. Although they share many things in common, Latinos have variegated experiences in the U.S. due to regional and/or national differences. Their historic modes of incorporation into American society will be analyzed and discussed, along with their continuing migration patterns, their experiences of racialization, as well as their current demographic and socio-economic condition. A historical and comparative sociological perspective will be used throughout the course to help explain contrasting experiences.

Course Objectives and Goals

To read and discuss an array of materials on Latino Politics

To develop critical reading and thinking and writing skills

To introduce students to the complexity of the Latino population and divergent political agendas of various subgroups

To develop an understanding of the historical origins of how Latino social/political movements have emerged and changed

To evaluate the role of movements and activists in policy reform and social/political change

To examine the impact of the Latino vote on contemporary politics

To explore contemporary policy issues affecting the Latino population
To examine the agency and contributions of Latinos to the process of political and social change

The following books are available at the Rainbow Bookstore:

- Silvia Pedraza. *Political Disaffection in Cuba’s Revolution and Exodus.*

All assigned readings are on reserve.

**Course Requirements**

I. **Class Participation**

We encourage class participation. Extra credit will be given for thoughtful questions, arguments and debate. Extra credit will be given for students who present their research findings at the end of the semester.

II. **A Mid-Term Examination**

The mid-term exam will consist of essay and short answer questions.

III. **Five Book Critiques**

Five (5) five-page critiques of the thesis, methods, evidence and conclusions of the assigned books. Students are required to critique Guidelines will be distributed in class. Papers are due on the day the books are discussed. All students are required to critique our first reading, Wendy Roth’s. *Race Migrations.* Students can then choose among the remaining books to fulfill the five-critique requirement.

Time will be set aside to discuss all of the assigned readings. In order to facilitate our critique of the assigned readings, all students will be assigned to a small discussion group. On the days discussions of the assigned readings are scheduled, students in these groups will spend about fifteen minutes reading each others papers, offering constructive criticism to one another, and raising issues and questions to be brought before the whole class.
Please note, even if you have not written a book critique during a given week, it is still essential that you read the assigned books each week before coming to class. It is not possible to put off any of the readings before the exams and expect to do well in the class.

IV. **A Research Paper**

A twelve to fifteen page research paper. Guidelines will be distributed in class. The term paper is due on May 9th. We ask that you turn in both a paper copy and an electronic copy of your research paper, in PDF or DOC format.

IV. **A Final Examination.**

The final exam will take place on Saturday May 18th at 7:45 am. Format TBA.

**Grades** will be determined using the following weighing scheme:

- Book Critiques .................. 25% (5% each)
- Mid Term Exam .................. 20%
- Term paper ....................... 25%
- Final Exam ....................... 30%
- Class Participation .............. up to 5% extra credit

Students must complete all required work in order to be eligible to receive a passing grade in the course. Make up exams will be given and late papers accepted without a penalty only in the case of a medical emergency.

**Office Hours:**
Professor Scarano: Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 (walk-in); Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30 (by appointment; please sign up outside office, 4234 Humanities or by email, fscarano@wisc.edu)

Professor Marquez: Wednesday 1:15 to 3:15 and by appointment, 403 North Hall. marquez@polisci.wisc.edu

Feel free to make an appointment or drop by during our office hours. We welcome students.
COURSE OUTLINE/TOPICS

Week One. January 22 & 24: The Latino Population in the U.S.
   A. Introduction, assignments, administrative matters [January 22]
   B. U.S. Latinos: A Profile [January 24 - Marquez]

Week Two January 29 & 31: Latino Ethnicity: Culture and Identity
   A. Assimilation Theory and Latino Immigrants [January 29 - Marquez]
   B. Assimilation Theory and Its Critics [January 31 - Marquez]

Week Three. February 5 & 7: Culture and Negotiation: Latinos in the New Megalopolises
   B. Negotiated Latinidad: Culture and Identity in the New Chicago [February 7 - Scarano]

Week Four. February 12 & 14: Assimilation and Acculturation in a Post Industrial America
   A. Latinos in Los Angeles and San Antonio [February 12 Marquez]

Week Five. February 19 & 21: The Mexican American Civil Rights Movement
   A. Historical precedents: The Mexican American Civil Rights Movement [February 19 – Marquez]
   B. Historical precedents: The Mexican American Civil Rights Movement [February 21 – Marquez]

Week Six. February 26 & 28: The Chicano Movement/Cuban Exile Politics
A. The Chicano Movement of the 1960s and 1970s [February 26 – Marquez].

B. Cuban Exceptionalism? [February 28 - Scarano]

**Week Seven. March 5 & 7: Puerto Rico, USA?**

A. Puerto Ricans in the American Century: Coloniality, Incorporation, and Nationhood [March 5]


**Week Eight. March 12 & 14: Puerto Rico, USA?**

A. The Puerto Rican Status Debate /Review session [March 12 - Scarano]

B. [March 14 – Scarano]

**Week Nine. March 19 & 21:**

A. Midterm exam [March 19]


**Spring Recess March 23 - 31**

**Week Ten. April 2 & 4.**

A. Caribbeans in the post-WWII Order [April 2 Scarano]

B. Pizza Party and discussion of *Harvest of Empire*. Wednesday April 3rd at 6:30 pm. Location TBA. Critique due.

C. Race, Culture, and Politics among Caribbean (Im)migrants [April 4 – Scarano]
**Week Eleven. April 9 & 11:** Latinos and 2012 Presidential Election/ Latinos and Participation in the Political Process

A. Gary Segura, Guest Speaker, Stanford University [April 9]
B. Video: A Class Apart [April 11 – Marquez]

**Week Twelve. April 16 & 18:** Latinos and Participation in the Political Process

A. Mexican-Americans: Multiple Voices in the Post-WWII Order [April 16 – Marquez].
B. The Prospects for Comprehensive Immigration Reform [April 18 – Marquez].

**Week Thirteen. April 23 & 25:**

A. Discussion of Reading: Critique due. [April 23]

**Week Fourteen. April 30 & May 2:** Globalized Production and Latino Workers

A. Mexican American Women in the Garment Industry [April 30 – Marquez]
B. Women Workers, Household Transformations, and the Caribbean Garment Industry [May 2 - Scarano]

**Week Fifteen. May 7 & 9:** Globalized Production and Latino Workers (cont.)


B. Student presentations & review session [May 9]