Political Science 395: Latino Politics  
(SPRING 2014 PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS)  
** Subject to change**

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Course Website: https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal

Class Meeting Time: Thursday 10:55am-1:55pm in Hickman 207  
Office Hours: Thursday 2:00pm-3:00pm in Hickman 312 Or By appointment

Course Overview:  
According to the 2010 Census, there are 50.5 million Latinos in the U.S. which constitutes 16.7% of the national population. Latinos are the largest minority group and are expected to be the majority of the population in some states such as California by 2050. This course will provide a general survey of Latino Politics in the United States. The purpose of the course is to learn about both the history and political processes Latinos have taken part in but also probe deeper theoretical questions of ethnicity. For example, what is a Latino pan-ethnic identity? How do different national origin groups vary in terms of culture, history, and political engagement? A significant segment of the course will focus on the policy process and examine the interaction of Latinos with other political actors and groups. The course begins with theoretical conceptions of ethnicity. Subsequent topics include political participation, social movements, institutions, and representation. Finally, this course will utilize films on topics of the course such as immigration, the Chicano Movement, and undocumented workers.

Course Requirements:  
This course is an upper division seminar rather than primarily a lecture course. Students are required to write one research paper (8-10 pages) as their final assessment in addition to 2 short reflection papers (2-3 pages). The due dates for assignments are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Paper #1</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Paper #2</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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Assignments are considered late if not turned in by the time class begins at 10:55am on the assigned due date. Students should turn in a paper copy and upload it to SAKAI Website under assignments. No electronic only submissions will be accepted unless stated otherwise on the assignment sheet.

Over the course of the semester there will also be two in-class debates on TBD and TBD. Students will be assigned a position to argue and will meet with members of their group during class to prepare for the debate.

Attendance and participation at weekly seminar is required since the class format is primarily discussion. Assignments will be heavily weighted towards in class activities and discussion and these comprise significant portions of the overall course grade. For this class to be successful, students need to regularly attend seminar ready to discuss the material.

This is an upper division course that is reading intensive. Average reading load per week is 100 pages. Some weeks will have as few as 60 pages of readings but other weeks may have as much as
130 pages of reading. If you are not prepared to complete the readings, then this may not be a suitable course for you.

**Grade Breakdown:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Short Paper 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Paper 2</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Debates</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Please note that in order to receive a passing grade in this course, all assignments and exams must be turned in and completed**

**Grading Scale:**

- 90-100%: A
- 87-89.9%: B+
- 80-86.9: B
- 77-79.9: C+
- 70-76.9%: C
- 60-69.9%: D
- 59.9 and below: F

**Procedures:**

**Attendance/Absences**

Attendance is required. A substantial portion of the overall course grade is from participation and it is necessary to participate in class to receive these points. Moreover the paper prompts will draw heavily from class material, therefore absences would result in difficulty in achieving maximum points on these assignments. If students are absent, it is his/her responsibility to obtain notes from lecture. Lecture notes and power point slides will not be provided by the instructor.

**Extensions**

If you become ill or have some other emergency and cannot turn in a paper on time or take an exam on the scheduled day, you must notify me ahead of time and provide documentation. Only after written confirmation from me that you can either turn in a paper late or take an exam at an alternate time without penalty, should you consider the extension granted. NO EXCEPTIONS

**Late Penalty**

If you do not get permission from me ahead of time to turn in a paper late, the penalty is 10% per day (24 hour period) it is late. After three days (72 hours), no late papers will be accepted for a grade. NO EXCEPTIONS.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours or after lecture. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Office of Disabilities Services, 77 Hamilton Street, 732-932-7896.
Participation Grading
Participation comprises 25% of the overall course grade. Students are expected to come prepared to discuss the assigned material. This means readings should be completed before the Thursday class of each week unless otherwise noted by the instructor. Some of the readings are extremely challenging in terms of the concepts they introduce and the evidence they employ. Most of these articles cannot be quickly skimmed, meaning that students should budget appropriate time for reading and thinking through each article, as well as how they relate to each other. Participation will be evaluated on both the quality and quantity of comments from students. Moreover participation/performance in activities in class such as small group discussion, debates, pop-quizzes and simulations may also be factored into the participation grade.

Discussion Expectations
My goals for discussion are threefold:
1. Clarify any points of confusion from my lectures.
2. Discuss the main themes from the week’s readings.
3. Engage the literature by thinking critically about the theories and evidence confirming or disconfirming the arguments.
If we do all of the above, we have had a successful discussion.

Respect and Discussion Rules
Every student brings a different perspective to the classroom. Part of my job is to make sure that one viewpoint is not privileged over others. Dialogue in my class is expected to always be respectful. We all reserve the right to respectfully disagree with one another; we do not have the right to intimidate anyone.

Citations/Footnotes
In your papers you must cite authors from whom you draw ideas/quotations. The typical style in political science is (Last Name, Year of Publication: Page) or (Winter, 1996: 118). Footnotes and endnotes are also acceptable ways of acknowledging work. In your exams it is a good idea to cite authors that we have in the course; page numbers are obviously not required. You can use any citation style you prefer as long as it is an official style i.e. MLA or Chicago.

Plagiarism and Cheating
Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses at Rutgers. The minimum punishment is the receipt of a grade of an F in the course.

What constitutes misrepresentation? Obviously, purchasing a paper from the internet is one way. Failing to give credit where credit is due—appropriating quotes from published authors as your own or representing authors’ ideas as your own—also constitutes plagiarism. For further information you can consult the university’s policy http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

Per the policy adoption in September 2011 to promote a strong culture of academic integrity, students are required to sign on examinations and major course assignments submitted for a grade “On my honor, I have neither received nor given unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment)”.

Section II specifically discusses the definitions of cheating and plagiarism. If you are having trouble assimilating outside information into your own ideas or have any other questions concerning academic writing, see the Rutgers Learning Center, or come to my office hours.
**Sakai & TurnItIn**

Students are required to turn in written assignments in paper copy and electronic copy when noted on the assignment sheet. Failure to turn in both formats by the deadline, will result in a late penalty until both formats are submitted. Please be aware that the electronic copy is submitted to TurnItIn on the Sakai website. It is a software program that checks for plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. All students are required to submit to this program. It is the student’s responsibility to verify that the electronic upload to the Sakai site was successful and print a confirmation sheet with date and time.

**Readings & Other Information**

On average, the course readings per week will be approximately 100 pages. There are no required books for this course. Instead all material is available electronically and can be printed out. The electronic PDFs will be available for download from the course website under Assignments.

If you have any straightforward administrative or logistical questions not of a personal nature (e.g. readings for the week; location of exam, etc.) please consult the website first and then email me if you still cannot find the answer.

Please note the instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus.

**Good luck and I look forward to a great term together!**

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**Course Outline and Reading Assignments**

**Week 1 (January 23rd)** First Class/Overview of Class and Material

**Latinos 101: Who are Latinos?**

Powner, “Reading and Understanding Political Science”

**Week 2 (January 30th)** Ethnicity, Identity & National Origin Groups


**Week 3 (February 6th)** Historical Roots & Changing Demographics


**Film Presentation of “Farmingville” (2004)**

**Week 4 (February 13th)** Americanism & Acculturation

Huntington, Samuel. 2004 *Who Are We? The Challenges to American’s National Identity* New York:
Week 5 (February 20th) Representation

Week 6 (February 27th) Partisanship & Public Opinion

Week 7 (March 6th) Campaigns & Elections

Week 8 (March 13th) Political Participation

*** NO CLASS MARCH 20th SPRING BREAK***

Week 9 (March 27th) Conflict & Coalitions
Research Quarterly 60: 315-327

Week 10 (April 3rd): Social Movements

Week 11 (April 10th) Chicano Movement
Film Presentation “Chicano! A History of the Mexican Civil Rights Movement” (1996)

*No class April 17th WPSA Conference**

Week 12 (April 24th) Gender

Week 13 (May 1st) Immigration Policy & Politics
Film Presentation of “Crossing Arizona” (2006)

** FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE on University Assigned Final Exam Time/Date ***