LATINO POLITICS AND POLICY
(Spring 2016) MWF 3-3:50 PM
Dr. Amy Stringer
Email: astringer@ufl.edu
Office Hours: Thursday 10:30-12 PM and Friday 1:30-3 PM or by appointment
Office Location: 302 Tigert Hall

Course Description:

This course focuses on Latinos in the U.S. and policies that affect the Latino community. As part of this course, we will examine Latino politics at both the national and state level with an emphasis placed on Latinos in Florida. We will also discuss the obstacles Latinos face in participating in politics and being represented in government. In doing so, this course will cover the various Latino groups that immigrated to the U.S. including Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, and other Latino groups. There will likewise be a discussion of current immigration policy and calls for reform, particularly during recent elections. Finally, we will cover policy issues beyond immigration that are important to the Latino community, which includes healthcare, education, and the environment, and their specific effects on this sector of the population.

Required Texts:

Garcia Bedolla, Lisa, *Latino Politics*

Other academic articles are assigned and listed in the course calendar below. PDF versions of these articles will be provided to students and uploaded on Canvas.

Assignments:

2 Short Essays/Group Presentation 30%
Participation 15%
Quizzes 25%
Final Research Paper 30%

Short Essays/Group Presentation:

Students will write 2 short essays during the semester in response to a question concerning Latino politics. Each essay will be 3-4 pages in length and count toward 10% of your final grade. Students will also give a short presentation on an important figure in Latino politics.

Participation:
As part of the participation grade, students are expected to attend class and also participate in class discussion and group activities to earn full credit.
Quizzes:  
There will be 5 multiple-choice quizzes during the course of the semester based on the readings and in-class discussion. Each quiz will count as 5% of the final grade.

Final Research Paper:  
For the final research paper, students will choose a topic related to Latino politics and policy, which is subject to approval. Once approved, the student will write an 8-10 page research paper.

Grading Scale:

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Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code prohibits plagiarism and defines it as follows:

Plagiarism. A student shall not represent as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
2. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.

(University of Florida, Student Honor Code, 8 July 2011)

University of Florida students are responsible for reading, understanding, and abiding by the entire Student Honor Code.

Important Tip: You should never copy and paste something from the Internet without providing the exact location from which it came.
Written Assignments:

All papers must be in 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins and pages numbered. Be sure to staple papers before submitting hard copies. Unstapled papers will not be accepted.

Classroom Behavior:

Please keep in mind that students come from diverse cultural, economic, and ethnic backgrounds. Some of the texts we will discuss and write about engage controversial topics and opinions. Diversified student backgrounds require that you demonstrate respect for ideas that may differ from your own.

Also, phones should be silenced. No texting is allowed during class.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Florida complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students requesting accommodation should contact the Students with Disabilities Office, Peabody 202. That office will provide documentation to the student whom must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Course Outline:

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND POLITICAL PARTIES

Week 1: Jan. 5th-Introductions

• No class Jan. 8th

Week 2: Background on the Latino Population in the U.S.

• Who are Latinos?: Introduction to Latinos and U.S. Politics
• Chapter 1 Bedolla p. 1-14
Week 3: Obstacles to Latino Political Participation

- Why are Latinos a low turnout group?
- No Class Jan. 18th
- Chapter 2 Barreto and Segura “Now You See Us, Now You Don’t” p. 53-75.

Week 4: Latinos and the Lack of Partisan Identification

- Quiz 1

Essay: How could political parties increase turnout among Latinos and identification with the parties? Why might Cubans be different from other Latino groups?

Week 5: Latino Mobilization

- Party, Candidate, and Advocacy Group Mobilization of Voters
- Chapter 8 Bedolla p. 235-250
BACKGROUND ON LATINO GROUPS IN THE U.S.

Week 6: Mexican Americans and Border States
Chapter 3 Bedolla Mexican Americans: Conquest, Migration and Adaptation p. 45-102.
Video: Latino Americans: Pride and Prejudice

Week 7: Cuban Americans and Asylum in the U.S.
- Quiz 2
  http://www.as.miami.edu/personal/cklofstad/13_little_havana.pdf
- Chapter 5 Bedolla Cuban Americans: Occupation, Revolution, and Exile Politics p. 131-164

Week 8: Puerto Ricans: U.S. Citizens and Immigrants
- Chapter 4 Bedolla Puerto Ricans: From Colonized People to Political Activist p. 104-130
- Video: Latino Americans: The New Latinos

Essay: We have discussed the 3 major Latino groups in the U.S. Now, compare and contrast the groups. What do they have in common? How do they differ? How might these similarities and differences influence political participation and partisanship?

Week 9: NO CLASS (Spring Break)

Public Policy: Immigration, Healthcare, Education, and the Environment

Week 10: Public Policy and Latino Public Opinion
- Quiz 3 and Final Paper Topics Due
- Barreto Chapters 11 and 12 Healthcare and Environmental Attitudes p. 205-229
- Branton, Regina. 2007. “Latino Attitudes toward Various Areas of Public Policy.”
  Political Research Quarterly 60(2): 293-303.
Week 11: Immigration in the U.S. and Possible Reform

- “Unauthorized Immigrants” http://www.pewresearch.org/key-data-points/immigration/
- Video: Immigration from the Other Side

Week 12: Nativist Responses to Immigration

- Video: Latin Americans Peril and Promise

Essay: How would you propose to deal with the issue of immigration in the U.S. and why? What are the advantages and disadvantages to your plan? Do you think your plan would find support among the majority of Americans?

LATINO REPRESENTATION AND ELECTIONS

Week 13: Latino Representation

- Quiz 4
- Bratton, Kathleen A. “The Behavior and Success of Latino Legislators: Evidence from the States” p. 1136-1157
Week 14: Influences on Latino Vote Choice

- Quiz 5

Week 15: Latinos and Presidential Elections


Essay: The Democratic Party has a clear advantage when it comes to winning over Latino voters in presidential elections. Do you think that Republicans can manage to sway more Latinos to their side to make the Latino vote more competitive? Why or Why not? (Think about this from both the perspective of the Republican and Democratic Party.)

Week 16: Final Week of Class – Elections Cont.

- Final Papers Due April 25th 12:30 PM