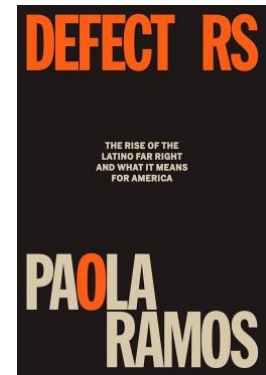
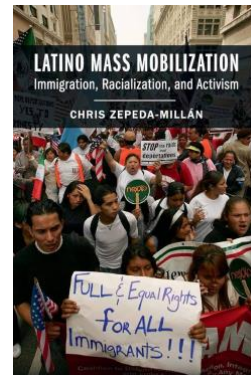
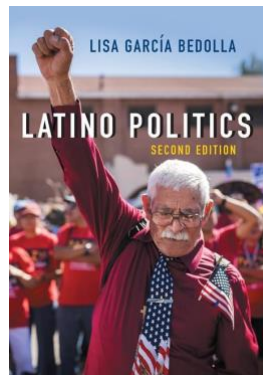
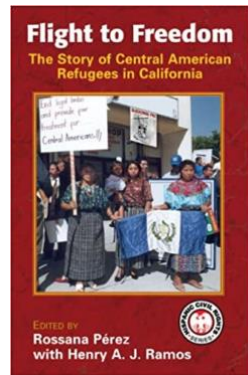
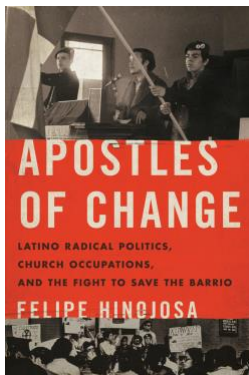


University of Florida, Gainesville/Center for Latin American Studies
Latin American Seminar on
Latinx Politics and Social Movements

Fall 2024 / Undergraduate Course LAS 4935/Sec 25573

Tuesday 11:45 am – 1:40 pm, Little Hall 0205

Thursday 12:50 pm – 1:40 pm, Little Hall 0205



Professor Rafael Ramirez Solórzano

Email: r.solorzano@ufl.edu

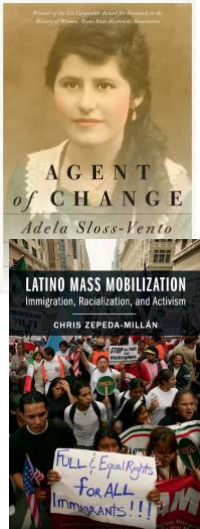
Office Hours: TBD

How does our interpretation of U.S. political history change when we take our cues from labor organizers such as Luisa Morena or the nation's largest and oldest civil rights organization, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)? This course examines and highlights how Latinas/os/xs across the United States have woven together pro-working class and democratic movements. Focusing on the 20th and 21st centuries, this course delves into the rich political history and ongoing struggles of four Latinx communities—Mexicans/Chicanas/os/xs, Central Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans. Students will explore these communities' persistent efforts for social, economic, and political equality, with a particular emphasis on electoral politics and grassroots activism. Moreover, we will examine their integration into the U.S. by examining the opportunities Latinx populations have been afforded and the restrictions that have been placed on their political incorporation. The core of the course, also, explores how social and political change is carried out from the grassroots, by examining cases of Latinx civic engagement. We are interested in the ways in which ordinary people have articulated extraordinary resistance (legal advocacy, voter mobilization efforts, mass mobilizations, etc.) to the material, social, and psychological effects of racism. We will read critical texts to studying Latinx politics and modern social movements. We will also engage in more recent work that explores, among other things, the significance of gender, sexuality, immigration, transnational, and the uses of geography for political analysis.

Required and Key Texts

The following books will be assigned and other readings will be on Canvas.

Majority of books will be available on ebooks through UF Library. Books are, also, available for purchase at the UF Bookstore.



1. Lisa García Bedolla, 2014. *Latino Politics, Second Edition*. Cambridge: Polity.
2. Paul Almeida, 2019. *Social Movements: The Structure of Collective Mobilization*. Berkeley: University of California Press
3. Paola Ramos, 2024. *Defectors: The Rise of the Latino Far Right and What it Means for America*. Penguin Random House.
4. Philip Williams, et al. 2011. *Living "Illegal": The Human Face of Unauthorized Immigration*. The New Press.
5. Chris Zepeda-Millán, 2017. *Latino Mass Mobilization: Immigration, Racialization, and Activism*. New York: Cambridge University Press
6. Rossana Perez, 2007. *Flight to Freedom: The Story of Central American Refugees*. Houston: Arte Publico Press.
7. Felipe Hinojosa, 2022. *Apostles of Change: Latino Radical Politics, Church Occupations, and the Fight to Save the Barrio*. Austin: University of Texas Press

All additional readings will be posted on Canvas as PDFs.

Student Evaluation

20 Points/Class Engagement: To facilitate student engagement with the readings students will participate in Ten IIQs (Important, Interesting and Questions) assignments. Students are responsible to submit thoughtful and reflective IIQs responses on the week of your choice on Canvas (choose wisely).

10 Points/Group Facilitation Activity: Additionally, your grade depends upon a group facilitation activity during our class sessions.

20 Points/Midterm I: This exam will be based upon readings and lectures during the first six weeks of the course and will include an essay question covering two Latinx Communities. The exam will assess students' ability to identify the social relevance of such historical and political development with present-day politics. It will be held during WEEK 6.

20 Points/Midterm II: This exam will be based upon readings and lectures during the second six weeks of the course and will include an essay question covering two Latinx Communities. The exam will assess students' ability to identify the social relevance of such historical and political development with present-day politics. This exam will be based upon readings and lectures during WEEK 7 to WEEK 11. It will be held during WEEK 12.

30 Points/Final: The final will consist of a final paper, and a project proposal that proposes a new program/organization that addresses the concerns of aggrieved communities. The project must address social and political disenfranchisement and propose a community change project at a local level. Your proposal will provide insight and help develop ideas for future campaigns, programs, educational tools, and research. This final project allows students to tap into their creativity while exploring and addressing issues that resonate personally with them.

COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK 1 – Introduction and Reenvisioning U.S. Latinx Politics

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Required Readings: Syllabus and Course Assignments

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Required Readings:

1. Paul Almeida, 2019. *Social Movements: The Structure of Collective Mobilization*. Berkeley: University of California Press

WEEK 2 – On the Matter of Latinx Lives – Chicanx Politics and Social Movements

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Required Readings:

1. Lisa García Bedolla, 2014. *Latino Politics*, Second Edition. Cambridge: Polity – Chapter 3, Pages 45-71

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Required Readings:

2. Lisa García Bedolla, 2014. *Latino Politics*, Second Edition. Cambridge: Polity – Chapter 3, Pages 71-103

Activities: Student Presentations #1

WEEK 3 – On the Matter of Latinx Lives - Chicanx Politics and Social Movements

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

Required Readings:

1. Paul Almeida, 2019. *Social Movements: The Structure of Collective Mobilization*. Berkeley: University of California Press

Thursday, January 30, 2025

Required Readings:

1. TBD
3. Raza Unida Party

Activities: Student Presentations #2

Activities: Student Presentations #2

WEEK 4 – On the Matter of Latinx Lives – Puerto Rican Politics and Social Movements

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

Required Readings:

1. Lisa García Bedolla, 2014. *Latino Politics*, Second Edition. Cambridge: Polity – Chapter 4

Thursday, February 6, 2025

Required Readings:

1. Felipe Hinojosa, 2021. “The People’s Church in East Harlem,” *Apostles of Change: Latino Radical Politics, Church Occupations, And the Fight to Save the Barrio*. Austin: University Texas Press – Chapter 3

Activities: Student Presentations #3

WEEK 5 – On the Matter of Latinx Lives – Central American Politics and Social Movements

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Required Reading:

1. Lisa García Bedolla, 2014. *Latino Politics*, Second Edition. Cambridge: Polity – Chapter 7

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Required Reading:

1. Rossana Perez and Henry A. J. Ramos. *Flight to Freedom: The Story of Central American Refugees in California*. Houston: Arte Publico Press – Rossana Pérez

Activities: Student Presentations #4

WEEK 6 – On the Matter of Latinx Lives – Cuban American Politics and Social Movements

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Required Reading:

1. Lisa García Bedolla, 2014. *Latino Politics*, Second Edition. Cambridge: Polity – Chapter 3

Thursday, February 20, 2025

1. Paul Almeida, 2019. *Social Movements: The Structure of Collective Mobilization*. Berkeley: University of California Press

Activities: Midterm Review

WEEK 7 – MIDTERM and Strategies of Racial Progress

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

MIDTERM DUE

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Required Reading:

TBD

WEEK 8 – Latinx Electoral Politics

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

Required Reading:

1. Lisa García Bedolla, 2014. *Latino Politics*, Second Edition. Cambridge: Polity – Chapter 2

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Required Reading:

1. TBD

Activities: Student Presentations #5

Activities: Student Presentations #5

WEEK 9 – The Rise of Latino Conservatism

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Required Reading:

1. Paola Ramos, 2024. *Defectors: The Rise of the Latino Far Right and What it Means for America*. Penguin Random House.

Thursday, March 13, 2025

Required Reading:

1. Paola Ramos, 2024. *Defectors: The Rise of the Latino Far Right and What it Means for America*. Penguin Random House.

Activities: Student Presentations #6

Activities: Student Presentations #6

Spring Break

WEEK 10 – Get Out The Vote Case Studies

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Required Reading:

1. Veronica Terriquez, 2015. “Training Youth Activists: Grassroots Organizing and Youths’ Civic and Political Trajectories.” *Sociological Perspectives* . Vol. 58(2):223-242.

Thursday, March 27, 2025

1. TBD

Updated 11/19/2024

Activities: Student Presentations #8

Activities: Student Presentations #8

WEEK 11 – MIDTERM II

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

MIDTERM II DUE

Thursday, April 3, 2025

Required Reading:

1. Tehama Lopez Bunyasi and Candis Watts Smith, 2020. *Stay Woke: A People’s Guide to Making All Black Lives Matter*. New York: New York University Press – Chapter 1

WEEK 12 – Chicanx and Latinx for Black Lives

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Required Reading:

1. Tehama Lopez Bunyasi and Candis Watts Smith, 2020. *Stay Woke: A People’s Guide to Making All Black Lives Matter*. New York: New York University Press – Chapter 3

Thursday, April 10, 2025

Required Reading:

1. Tehama Lopez Bunyasi and Candis Watts Smith, 2020. *Stay Woke: A People’s Guide to Making All Black Lives Matter*. New York: New York University Press – Chapter 4
2. Lorgia Garcia-Pena, “Dismantling Anti-Blackness Together,” *NACLA*. June 8, 2020

Activities: Student Presentations #9

Activities: Student Presentations #9

WEEK 13 – Immigration Politics

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Required Reading:

1. *Undocumented and Unafraid: Tam Tran, Cinthya Felix, and the Immigrant Youth Movement*, UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education—Part II-The Immigrant Youth Movement

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Required Reading:

1. Walter J. Nicholls, 2013. “Chapter 3: Taking a Stand,” *The Dreamers: How the Undocumented Youth Movement Transformed the Immigrant Rights Debate*. Stanford: Stanford University Press

Activities: Student Presentations #10

WEEK 14 – Immigrantion Politics

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Required Reading:

1. Jennicet Gutierrez & Suyapa Portillo. 2018. Trans(formation) of a Movement, *NACLA Report on the Americas* , 50:4, 392-394.

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Required Reading:

1. Veronica Terriquez and Ruth Milkman. 2021. “Immigrant and Refugee Youth Organizing in Solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives.” *Gender & Society* , Vol. 35, No. 4. 577-587.

2. Review Website: <https://mijente.net/>

3. Review Website: <https://dreamdefenders.org> and <https://dreamdefenders.org/freedom-papers/>

Activities: Student Presentations #11

WEEK 15 - NO CLASS- Good Luck on Finals!

NO CLASS – Good Luck on Finals!