

Professor Victoria M. DeFrancesco Soto, Ph.D.

Room:

Office Hours: Wednesday 4-6pm and by appointment

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Course Description

Latinos are now the largest minority group in the United States and in Texas are projected to make up a majority by 2040. Given the size and growth rates of Latinos across the country, an understanding of American politics and policy is incomplete without an in-depth understanding of Latinos. This seminar will provide you with a nuanced knowledge of the factors that shape the Latino political voice that in turn shapes contemporary policy issues.

The 2016 election has placed Latinos front and center – among both Republicans and Democrats. We will take advantage of this unique political moment and provide special consideration to how Latinos take part in and shape the electoral landscape. As such you are strongly encouraged to tie in current events into your weekly Reflection-Analysis-Papers (RAPs).

The seminar will be divided into two modules. The first module will focus on Latino political behavior and representation. We will first understand who “Latinos” are and then delve into an analysis of what has shaped the Latino political voice and what manifestations it has taken. The second module provides a survey of the top Latino policy issues. By the end of this seminar you will have the expertise to brief any of the newly elected politicians on Latino policy issues. As such, the final project for this paper will entail you picking an elected official and providing them with a briefing on a Latino policy issue of your choice.

Readings

Articles, chapters, polls and papers not available online will be posted on Canvas, as indicated in the syllabus by the citation note: **Canvas**.

Required Texts

- *Latino Politics in America*, 2nd ed., by John Garcia.
- *Latino Politics en Ciencia Política* by Tony Affigne, Evelyn Hu-DeHart and Marion Orr.
- *Latino America: How America’s Most Dynamic Population is Poised to Transform the Politics of the Nation*, by Matt Barreto and Gary Segura
- *The Economic Status of the Hispanic Population: Selected Essays*, by Marie T. Mora and Alberto Davila.

- *Getting Immigration Right: What Every American Needs to Know*, by David Coates and Peter Siavelis.

Evaluation/ Grading Criteria:

*All written assignments must be double-spaced.

- Reflection-Analysis-Papers (RAPs). Weekly RAP (375-500 words) on one aspect of the week's reading. It is to be ***turned in via Canvas no later than 8am the morning of class and also bring a hard copy to class***. Because these papers are a key component of class discussion, late papers cannot be accepted.
 - The first RAP is due the 2nd week of class and there is **no** RAP due the week of the mid-term and the last week of class.
 - Worth 40% of your grade

What is a “reflection-analysis paper (RAP)” and how do I write one?

After completing the week's assignment, spend some time “digesting” the material. Think and rethink. Analyze. After the material settles-in, frame a good question about the assignment and briefly contemplate a good answer.

A RAP is not a summary of the readings but rather an opportunity for you to test your thinking and analysis.

The possible questions/topics for a RAP are endless but here a few examples:

*Does an author(s) present an idea or theory that is convincing? Why? Why Not?
Has the author overlooked a key idea/concept?
How does this reading speak to the current state of national or state politics?
Is this how things really work?*

- Mid-term. Exam that will cover the material from Module 1.
 - Worth 25% of your grade
- Policy Briefing. You will pick an elected official and develop an issue briefing for him/her. The issue must be an issue closely tied to the Latino community. The brief should be between 8-10 pages including a one-page executive summary.
 - Worth 25% of your grade
- Policy Briefing Presentation. The last day of class you will provide an 8-10 minute presentation based on your policy briefing project.
 - Worth 10% of your grade

Disability Notice

If you have a disability you may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to respect the University of Texas standards regarding academic dishonesty. You owe it to yourself, your fellow students, and the institution to maintain the highest standards of integrity and ethical behavior. A discussion of academic integrity, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, as well as helpful information on citations, note taking, and paraphrasing, can be found at the Office of the Dean of Students web page (http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php) The University has also established disciplinary procedures and penalty guidelines for academic dishonesty, especially Sec. 11.304 in Appendix C of the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities section in UT's General Information Catalog.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The instructor reserves the right to amend the syllabus

Week 1-8/24: Introduction / Overview of U.S. Latino Population & 2016 Electoral Context

- Eileen Patten, [“The Nation’s Latino Population is Defined by Its Youth”](#) (Pew Research Center)
- John A. Garcia, *Latino Politics in America*, chapters 1 & 3

Week 2-8/31: Ethnicity, Identity, and National Origin Groups

- John A. Garcia, *Latino Politics in America*, chapter 4
- Matt A. Barreto and Gary M. Segura *Latino America*, chapter 2
- Tony Affigne et al., *Latino Politics en Ciencia Política*, chapters 2-6

Week 3-9/7: Political Emergence and Participation

- John A. Garcia, *Latino Politics in America*, chapters 2, 5, 6, 8, 11
- Matt A. Barreto and Gary M. Segura *Latino America*, chapters 3 and 4
- Lisa Garcia Bedolla *Latino Politics (Minority Politics)* chapter 2 **Canvas**
- Melissa R. Michelson, “Majority-Latino Districts and Latino Political Power” (*Duke Journal of Constitutional Law and Public Policy*, 2010).

Week 4-9/14: Partisanship and Public Opinion

- Luis Fraga, John A. García, Rodney E. Hero, Michael Jones-Correa, Valerie Martinez-Ebers and Gary M. Segura. *Latinos in the New Millennium: An Almanac of Opinion, Behavior, and Policy Preferences* (Cambridge, 2012), chapters 3 (“Core Values”) and 10 (“Evolving Patterns and Preferences in Latino Partisanship”)

- Kim Geron and Melissa R. Michelson, “Latino Partisanship, Political Activity, and Vote Choice.” (In Havidán Rodríguez, Rogelio Saenz, and Cecilia Menjivar, eds., *Latinas/os in the United States: Changing the Face of América*, New York: Springer, 2008)
- Barreto, Matt A. and Thomas F. Schaller. 2014. “Getting the Latino Vote Wrong? Which polls are good and which polls are bad.” [Latino Decisions](#).

Week 5-9/21: Campaigns and Elections

- Matt Barreto, Loren Collingwood and Sylvia Manzano, "Measuring Latino Political
- Pew Research, “2016 Campaign: Strong Interest, Widespread Dissatisfaction”
- Influence in National Elections, " *Political Research Quarterly* 2010.
- John A. Garcia, *Latino Politics in America*, chapter 7
- Matt A. Barreto and Gary M. Segura *Latino America*, chapters 5-10

Week 6-9/28: Targeted Outreach/The Role of the Media

Special Guest Lecture: Chuck Rocha – Founder of Solidarity Strategies & Sanders Campaign Strategist

- Federico Subervi-Velez and Stacey L. Connaughton, “Democratic and Republican mass communication campaign strategies: Historical overview.” In *The Mass Media and Latino Politics Canvas*
- Luis Fraga, John A. García, Rodney E. Hero, Michael Jones-Correa, Valerie Martinez-Ebers and Gary M. Segura. *Latinos in the New Millennium: An Almanac of Opinion, Behavior, and Policy Preferences* (Cambridge, 2012), chapter 8 (“Media”)
- Matt Barreto, Victoria DeFrancesco Soto, Jennifer L. Merolla, “Multiple Dimensions of Mobilization: The Effect of Direct Contact and Political Ads on Latino Turnout on the 2000 Presidential Election.”
- Chuck Rocha, “Why the Sanders Campaign Shows Latino Consultants Can do More Than Minority Outreach.” [Campaigns and Elections](#)

Week 7-10/5: Mid-term

Week 8-10/12: Immigration Policy – Overview

- Samuel Huntington, 2004. “The Hispanic Challenge.” *Foreign Policy* (141): 30-45
- Pew Hispanic Center. “A Nation of Immigrants: A Portrait of the 40 Million, Including 11 Million Unauthorized.” 2013
- David Coates and Peter Siavelis, eds., *Getting Immigration Right*, chapters 1, 2, 4, 6, 7.
- Matt Barreto, Sylvia Manzano, Ricardo Ramirez and Kathy Rim, “Immigrant Social Movement Participation: Understanding Involvement in the 2006 Immigration Protest Rallies” (*Urban Affairs Review*, 2009)

Week 9-10/19: Immigration Policy – Policy

- Ruth Ellen Wasem. 2013. “Brief History of Comprehensive Immigration Reform Efforts in the 109th and 110th Congresses to Inform Policy Discussions in the 113th Congress. Washington D.C.: Congressional Research Service.
- Immigration Policy Center. 2013 “A Guide to S.744: Understanding the 2013 Senate Immigration Bill”
- David Coates and Peter Siavelis, eds., *Getting Immigration Right*, chapters 8-14.
- National Council of State Legislatures. 2015. “Report on 2015 State Immigration Laws.”
- David A Harris. 2011. “Immigration and National Security: The Illusion of Safety Through Local Law Enforcement Action.” *Arizona Journal of International and Comparative Law*. Vol. 28, No.2

Week 10-10/26: Civil Rights, Voter ID, and Redistricting

- John A. Garcia, *Latino Politics in America*, chapter 10
- Zoltan Hajnal et al. 2016. “Voter Identification Laws and the Suppression of Minority Votes.” [Working Paper](#).
- Matt Barreto and Gabriel Sanchez. 2014. “Accepted Photo Identification and Different Subgroups in the Electorate.” Expert Report. **Canvas**
- Keith G. Bentele and Erin O’Brien. 2013. “Jim Crow 2.0? Why states consider and adopt restrictive access policies.” *Perspectives on Politics* 11(04): 1088-1116.

Week 11-11/2: Health Care and Reproductive Rights Policy

- Matt A. Barreto and Gary M. Segura *Latino America*, chapters 11.
- Gabriel R. Sanchez et al. 2014 “The Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Latino Access to Health Insurance.” Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [Center for Health Policy](#).
- Marie T. Mora and Alberto Davila. 2013. *The Economic Status of the Hispanic Population: Selected Essays*. Chapters 7-8.

Week 12-11/9: Election Debriefing/Overview of Latino Policy Priorities

- Readings TBA

Week 13-11/16: Three E’s: Economy, Education, and Environment

- Matt A. Barreto and Gary M. Segura *Latino America*, chapters 12.
- Marie T. Mora and Alberto Davila. 2013. *The Economic Status of the Hispanic Population: Selected Essays*. Chapters 1-6 and 10.

Week 14-11/23: Thanksgiving

Week 15: Policy Briefing Presentations