Professor: Marisa Abrajano  
Office: 393 Social Sciences Building  
Office Phone: (858) 534-7201  
Email: mabrajano@ucsd.edu  
Office Hours: Wed 10-11am or by appointment  
Teaching Assistants: Jaime Settle, jsettle@ucsd.edu, SSB 323, Tues 9:30-10:30  
Dan Enemark, denemark@ucsd.edu, SSB 332, Tues 10-11

Course Description

This class is a survey of historical and contemporary issues in Latino politics in the U.S.; race and ethnicity in the context of U.S. politics; comparisons of racial and ethnic group experiences in the U.S. with those experienced by racial and ethnic groups elsewhere; Latino access to the political system through political participation.

Course Policies

Attendance and Class Readings

Attendance and readings are mandatory. I will not take attendance, but it will be difficult to do well in the class if you do not attend lecture or only rely on the lecture notes. All readings for a given date should be done before the beginning of class.

Excuses Policy (extensions, make-up exams, etc.)

Extensions and make-up exams will be allowed on a case-by-case basis. You must have a medically documented reason for not being able to take an exam or turn in a graded assignment at the scheduled time. You will need to bring in supporting documentation to be granted a make-up, and if you do so, your final will count as your midterm grade. For example, instead of the final being 40% of your grade, it will now count for 70% of your grade should you miss the midterm.

Grades

You can retrieve your grades when we distribute the paper and exams in class and/or during office hours. Grades will not be communicated via email or any other type of correspondence. It is your responsibility to retrieve your grades.

Please write your name on all the assignments as it is officially registered with the University Registrar. Otherwise, we may not be able to enter your grades properly.

Late Papers

A late paper loses 10% for each day that it is late up to the letter grade of a C. If you turned in a paper one day late, the highest grade you can get is a 90% and if you turn in a paper a week late,
for example, the highest grade that you can get is a C. The idea behind this is simple. You are not overly penalized for day one but by day two the highest grade that you may receive is 80%. You are encouraged to turn in late papers quickly but by making the reduction capped at a C you also encouraged to turn them in, even if exceptionally late. *Late papers will not be accepted past the Tuesday of Week 10.*

**Grade Appeals**

You have one week after I return the exam/paper to appeal the grade. This deadline is firm, even if you did not pick up your assignment the day they were passed back in class. All appeals must be made to me, not the TAs. You must submit a one page, typed, double-spaced, statement explaining why you are requesting a grade appeal and justify it with evidence from your paper, exam, readings and lectures. If you choose to appeal your grade, I reserve the right to decrease the existing grade.

**Tardiness to Exams**

It is expected that you will arrive to exams on time. Arriving late to exams is a disruption for your colleagues and increases the probability that exam information has been shared. Students who arrive more than 20 minutes late will not be allowed to sit for the midterm. Exceptions to this policy will be made on a case-by-case basis.

**Academic Honesty**

Cheating, plagiarism and other violations of academic honesty are serious offenses. Graded assignments are not collaborative efforts in this class. You must work independently on all exams and papers. Please refer to the UCSD policy on integrity of scholarship for further details. If you are caught cheating in this course (this includes plagiarism), you will be awarded a letter grade of an F.

**Required Readings**


Other readings will be available on the course website: webct.ucsd.edu.

Lecture notes will be available on-line at webct.ucsd.edu.

**Grading**

*Midterm Exam (30%):* This will be an in-class exam and will take place on April 28, 2011.

*Short Paper (30%):* Paper topics TBA. The paper is due at the beginning of lecture on May 19, 2011.

*Final Exam (40%):* The final is scheduled for June 9, 2011 from 8-10:50am.
COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Part 1: History, Background, and Theory

Week 1 (3/29 - 3/31): Introduction and Background

Readings:
Abrajano and Alvarez, Introduction

***Please note: class cancelled on 3/31***

Week 2 (4/5-4/7): Theoretical Foundations


Part II: Political Behavior

Week 3 (4/12-4/14): The Importance of Ethnicity on Political Behavior

Readings:
Abrajano and Alvarez, Chapter 1


Week 4 (4/18) Political Predispositions and Attitudes

Readings:
Abrajano and Alvarez, Chapter 4

Week 4 (4/21): Campaigns, Elections, and the Media

Readings:


Week 5 (4/26): Public Opinion and Partisanship

Readings:
Abrajano and Alvarez, Chapter 2

In-class midterm: 4/28/11

Week 6 (5/3-5/5): Political Behavior –Voting and Participation

Readings:
Abrajano and Alvarez, Chapters 3, 5 and Postscript


Part III: Political Institutions and Policy Concerns

Week 6 (5/3-5/5): Political Behavior –Voting and Participation

Readings:
Abrajano and Alvarez, Chapters 3, 5 and Postscript


Week 7 (5/10-5/12): Coalition Building and Inter-group Relations

Abrajano and Alvarez, Chapter 6


Week 8 (5/17-5/19): Latino Representation


Part III: Political Institutions and Policy Concerns

Week 9 (5/24-5/26): Public Policy Concerns---Education and Affirmative Action


Weeks 10 (5/31-6/2): Public Policy Concerns, cont (Immigration) and Conclusion

Readings:


Abrajano and Alvarez, Conclusion