Latino Politics in the U.S.
POLI 105A
Peterson Hall 102
Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:50am
Winter 2012

Professor: Marisa Abrajano
Office: 393 Social Sciences Building
Office Phone: (858) 534-7201
Email: mabrajano@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11-12:15 or by appointment
Teaching Assistant: Cesi Cruz, cesi.cruz@gmail.com, office hours by appointment only, office SSB 447

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 counting as 45% of your grade, it will now count for 80% 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.

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: ted.ucsd.edu.

Grading

*Midterm Exam* (35%): This will be an in-class exam and will take place on **February 9, 2012**.

*In-class assignments* (20%): There will be two in-class assignments (each worth 10%) that will be distributed sometime during the quarter. These assignments will be based on the readings, lectures, or a combination of both the readings and the lectures. Students who miss the in-class assignment may not make-up it for any reason unless there is a well-documented excuse for doing so (e.g. illness).

*Final Exam* (45%): The final is scheduled for Tuesday, **March 20, 2012** from 8-11am.
**COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)**

**Part 1: History, Background, and Theory**

*Week 1 (1/10 & 1/12): Introduction and Background*

Readings:

Abrajano and Alvarez, Introduction

*Week 2 (1/17 & 1/19): Theoretical Foundations*


**Part II: Political Behavior**

*Week 3 (1/24 & 1/26): The Relationship between Ethnic Identity and Political Behavior*

Readings:

Abrajano and Alvarez, Chapter 1


*Week 4 (1/31) Political Predispositions and Attitudes*

Readings:

Abrajano and Alvarez, Chapter 4

*Week 4 (2/2): Campaigns, Elections, and the Media*

Readings:

[Insert reading here]


*Week 5 (2/7): Public Opinion and Partisanship*

Readings:
Abrajano and Alvarez, Chapter 2

**In-class midterm: 2/9/12**

Week 6 (2/14-2/16): Political Participation -- Voting and Turnout

Readings:

Abrajano and Alvarez, Chapters 3, 5 and Postscript


Week 7 (2/21-2/23): Coalition Building and Intergroup Relations

Abrajano and Alvarez, Chapter 6

**Part III: Political Institutions and Policy Concerns**

Week 8 (2/28-3/1): Latino Representation /Education


Week 9 (3/6-3/8): Public Policy Concerns--- Education and Affirmative Action

**In-Class Documentary – Waiting for Superman**


Weeks 10 (3/13-3/15): Public Policy Concern, Immigration, & Conclusion

**In-Class Documentary – 30 Days**

Readings:

Justice Department Findings in Its Investigation of the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office. December 15, 2011.

Abrajano and Alvarez, Conclusion