

Latina Politics
MAS 374/GOV 370K/WGS 340
University of Texas at Austin
Fall 2015
Classroom: JBG 2.202

Professor Victoria M. DeFrancesco Soto, Ph.D.
Room: 1.102D GWB
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-12:30 & 1:30-3:30 or by appointment
Email: vmdsoto@austin.utexas.edu

Course Description:

This course provides an in-depth look at the intersection of women and politics and Latino politics. We will put to use the tools and theoretical frameworks from multiple disciplines to develop an understanding of Latina Politics. At the same time, we will consider the larger political landscape through both an historical and current events lens.

This course will consist of three modules. The first module will focus on the history of political participation of Latinas/os and women. Having laid this groundwork, the second module moves into an analysis of female candidates and office holders. The last module takes a broad look at the political participation of women as voters and activists.

Careful and thoughtful preparation before each class is essential. All readings must be completed before class. Participation in the seminar is critical to your success in the course as a result attendance is required. Grades will be based on three module exams, a portfolio, and attendance.

Cultural Diversity in the United States Flag

This course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.

Independent Inquiry Flag

This course carries the Independent Inquiry flag. Independent Inquiry courses are designed to engage you in the process of inquiry over the course of a semester, providing you with the opportunity for independent investigation of a question, problem, or project related to your major. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from the independent investigation and presentation of your own work.

Required Readings for Class

Bejarano, Christina E. 2013. *The Latina Advantage: Gender, Race, and Political Success*.
Austin, TX, University of Texas Press.

Cox Han, Lori. 2010. *Women and US Politics: The Spectrum of Political Leadership*.
Boulder, CO, Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Course Packet – Available at UT Coop

Evaluation/ Grading Criteria:

*All written assignments must be double-spaced.

1. Module examinations (3). There will be an exam at the end of each module that evaluates your comprehension of that module's material. You will be responsible for all of the readings, in-class films, and all of the lecture materials, including those of guest lecturers. Each exam is worth 20% of your grade, together accounting for 60% of your grade.

- Module 1 Exam: October 1 – 20%
- Module 2 Exam: October 29 – 20%
- Module 3 Exam: December 3 – 20%

2. Portfolio. Over the course of the semester you will compile a portfolio that profiles a Latina office holder. You will profile the same Latina office holder for each of the four assignments. The portfolio consists of four parts that will be due throughout the semester. Before deciding on your office holder, make sure she agrees to do an interview (minimum 30 minutes) with you later in the semester as an interview makes up the last portfolio assignment. The portfolio is worth 35% of your grade.

The **first portfolio assignment** is a Political Briefing of a Latina office holder you will profile. In this 3 page memo you will briefly tell us about the candidate you chose, about the area and constituency she represents, and why you chose her. This briefing is worth 5% of your grade.

- Due September 10

The **second portfolio assignment** is a 4-5 page biography that focuses on the office holder's path to office. The biography is worth 10% of your grade.

- Due October 15

The **third portfolio assignment** is a 4-5 page analysis of the office holder's policy positions. Here you will examine what legislation she has sponsored/authored as well as what her votes have been. The policy analysis is worth 10% of your grade

- Due November 24

The **fourth portfolio assignment** is a magazine-style write-up or video of the interview you conduct with the office holder. The interview write-up or video is worth 10% of your grade

- Due during our course's scheduled final exam time, December 12 at noon.

3. Attendance. Regular class attendance and participation will make up 5% of your grade.

Policy for Late Assignments

You must inform me prior to a due date (via e-mail) and offer a valid excuse with documentation if an extension on a due date is to be provided. If you miss a due date and do not give prior notice, or if you do not have a valid excuse, your written work is subject to a late penalty of 1/3 of a full letter grade for each day (or part thereof) that your assignment is late.

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, (512) 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

Thursday, August 27: Introduction

Tuesday, September 1: Cracking the Glass Ceiling?

Kornblut, Anne E. 2009. *Notes from the Cracked Ceiling*. New York, NY, Broadway Paperbacks.
(Introduction & Ch. 1) CP

Thursday, September 3: Latina Trailblazers – Catching Fire?

Garica, Sonia, Valerie Martinez-Ebers, Irasema Coronado, Sharon A. Navarro, and Patricia Jaramillo. 2008. *Politic@s: Latina Public Officials in Texas*. Austin, TX, University of Texas Press. (Ch. 3) CP

Garcia, Gilbert. "Capitol Ideas." *San Antonio Current*. February 18, 2009

Tuesday, September 8: The Women's Movement

Cox Han, Lori. 2010. *Women and US Politics: The Spectrum of Political Leadership*. Boulder, CO, Lynne Rienner Publishers. (Ch. 2)

Thursday, September 10: Mexican American Voter Enfranchisement

Garcia Bedolla, Lisa. 2009. *Latino Politics*. Cambridge, MA, Polity Press.
(Pgs. 36-46 & 55-75) CP

LATINA LEADER BRIEFING DUE

Tuesday, September 15: Qualitative Research Workshop

**Guest lecture by Dr. Alfonso Gonzalez

Thursday, September 17: Human Subjects Research & IRB Workshop

**Guest lecture by UT's Office of Research Support

Tuesday, September 22: The Feminist Movement

Rosen, Ruth. 2000. *The World Split Open*. New York, NY, Penguin Books. (Ch. 1) CP

Thursday, September 24: Latina Feminism

Moraga, Cherrie and Gloria Anzaldua (eds). 2015. *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*. 4th ed. Albany, NY, SUNY University Press. (Pgs. 57-61, 65-67, 73-77) CP

Institute for Women's Policy Research. The Gender Wage Gap: 2014. **Canvas**

Tuesday, September 29: Voting Rights Act 50 years Later

Berman, Ari. "Texas Voter ID Law Discriminates against women, students, and Minorities." *The Nation*. October 23, 2013.

Barreto, Matt A. and Gabriel R. Sanchez. *Accepted Photo Identification And Different Subgroups in the Eligible Voter Population, State of Texas 2014*. Expert Report Submitted on Behalf of Plaintiffs in *Veasey v. Perry Case 2:13-cv-00193*.

Thursday, October 1: Module 1 Exam

Tuesday, October 6: Women as Political Candidates

Cox Han, Lori. 2010. *Women and US Politics: The Spectrum of Political Leadership*. Boulder, CO, Lynne Rienner Publishers. (Ch. 4)

Poderpac.com (Read over the different sections of the website)

Thursday, October 8: Women, Stereotypes, & the Media

Dolan, Kathleen A. 2014 "Gender Stereotypes, Candidate Evaluations, and Voting for Women Candidates: What Really Matters?" *Political Research Quarterly* 67(1): 96-107.

Tuesday, October 13: The Latina Advantage?

Bejarano, Christina E. 2013. *The Latina Advantage: Gender, Race, and Political Success*. Austin, TX, University of Texas Press. (Introduction, Chs 1-2)

Thursday, October 15: The Latina Advantage?

Bejarano, Christina E. 2013. *The Latina Advantage: Gender, Race, and Political Success*. Austin, TX, University of Texas Press. (Ch. 3)

LATINA LEADER BIOGRAPHY DUE

Tuesday, October 20: Women Legislators

Cox Han, Lori. 2010. *Women and US Politics: The Spectrum of Political Leadership*. Boulder, CO, Lynne Rienner Publishers. (Ch. 5)

Bejarano, Christina E. 2013. *The Latina Advantage: Gender, Race, and Political Success*. Austin, TX, University of Texas Press. (Ch. 4)

Thursday, October 22: Women in Executive Leadership

Cox Han, Lori. 2010. *Women and US Politics: The Spectrum of Political Leadership*. Boulder, CO, Lynne Rienner Publishers. (Ch. 6)

Taylor, Jessica. "First female president or vice-president certain or near-certain come 2016."
The Hill. March 12, 2015.

Lilley, Sandra. "Governor Susana Martinez to speak at the Republican National Convention."
NBCLatino.com. August 6, 2012.

Tuesday, October 27: Women and Political Leadership - Review

Cox Han, Lori. 2010. *Women and US Politics: The Spectrum of Political Leadership*. Boulder, CO, Lynne Rienner Publishers. (Ch. 8)

***Portfolio Assignment Due...

Thursday, October 29: Module 2 Exam

Tuesday, November 3: The Female & Latino Electorate

Cox Han, Lori. 2010. *Women and US Politics: The Spectrum of Political Leadership*. Boulder, CO, Lynne Rienner Publishers. (Ch. 3)

Hugo Lopez, Mark, Jens Manuel Krogstad, Eileen Patten, and Ana Gonzalez-Barrera. 2014. "Latino Voters and the 2014 Midterm Elections." *Pew Research Center*.

Thursday, November 5: The Gender Gap

Dolan, Julie, Melissa Deckman, and Michele L. Swers. 2011. *Women and Politics: Paths to Power and Political Influence* (2nd ed). New York, NY, Pearson Publishing. (Ch. 3) CP

Tuesday, November 10: Latinas & the Gender Gap

Sampaio, Anna. 2014. "Latinas and Electoral Politics: Expanding Participation and Power in State and National Elections" in *Gender & Elections: Shaping the Future of American Politics*, 3rd ed. Cambridge, MA, Cambridge University Press. CP

Bejarano, Christina. 2014. "The Latino Gender Gap in U.S. Politics." Guest blog on LatinoDecisions.com.

Thursday, November 12: Political Organizational Resources

Burrell, Barbara. 2014. "Political Parties and Women's Organizations: Bringin Women into the Electoral Arena" in *Gender & Elections: Shaping the Future of American Politics*, 3rd ed. Cambridge, MA, Cambridge University Press. CP

Tuesday, November 17: Political Participation

Verba, Sidney, Kay Lehman Schlozman, Henry Brady, and Norman H. Nie. 1993. "Race, Ethnicity, and Political Resources: Participation in the United States." *British Journal of Political Science* 23 (4) 453-497.

Thursday, November 19: Latina Grassroots Mobilization

Hardy-Fanta, Carol. 1993. *Latina Politics, Latino Politics: Gender, Culture, and Political Participation in Boston*. Philadelphia, PA, Temple University Press. (Ch. 1) **CP**

Pardo, Mary. 1990. "Mexican American Women Grassroots Community Activists." *Frontiers* Vol. XI, No.1.

Nuño, Stephen A. "Politics Starts Locally: The Legacy of the 'Mothers of East L.A.'"

NBCLatino.com. September 25, 2014.

Tuesday, November 24: Portfolio Workshop

LATINA LEADER POLICY ANALYSIS DUE

Thursday, November 26: THANKSGIVING – No Class

Tuesday, December 1: Latinas & the 2016 Election

Readings TBA

Thursday, December 3: Module 3 Exam

Saturday, December 12: Final Project Due

LATINA LEADERS INTERVIEW DUE