

**Latina Politics**  
**MAS 374/GOV 370K/WGS 340**  
**University of Texas at Austin**  
Spring 2017  
Classroom: MEZ 1.120

Professor Victoria M. DeFrancesco Soto, Ph.D.  
Office Hours: M 2:30-4, W2 2:30-4 or by appointment  
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**Course Description:**

This course provides an in-depth look at the intersection of gender studies, American politics and Latino studies. 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. 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.

Newton-Small, Jay. 2016. *Broad Influence: How Women Are Changing the Way America Works*. New York,  
NY, Time Books.

Course Packet – Available at UT Coop

## Evaluation/ Grading Criteria:

All written assignments and exams must be DOUBLE-SPACED and SUBMITTED VIA CANVAS

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: February 22 – 20%
- Module 2 Exam: April 3 – 20%
- Module 3 Exam: May 3 – 20%

2. Portfolio. Over the course of the semester you will compile a portfolio that profiles a Latina office holder. You will profile different dimensions of 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 you:

A.) Run it by Professor DeFrancesco Soto and

B.) The office holder or someone in her office (e.g. chief of staff) agrees to do an interview with you later in the semester.

An interview makes up the last portfolio assignment. The assignment of the Latina office holders to profile will be first come first serve. The portfolio is worth 35% of your grade.

The **first portfolio assignment** is a Political Briefing of the office and district held by your chosen Latina office holder. In this memo (500-700 words) you will briefly tell us about the area and constituency she represents. Here you will also discuss what the larger political context of the district is as well as its electoral history. This briefing is worth 5% of your grade.

- Due February 1

The **second portfolio assignment** is a biography (500-700 words) that focuses on the office holder's path to office and her background. The biography is worth 5% of your grade.

- Due March 8

The **third portfolio assignment** is an analysis (800-1000 words) 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 15% of your grade

- Due April 17

The **fourth portfolio assignment** is a magazine-style write-up or video or podcast 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.

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](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*

### **Wednesday, January 18: Introduction**

#### **Monday, January 23: Cracking the Glass Ceiling?**

Kornblut, Anne E. 2009. *Notes from the Cracked Ceiling*. (Introduction & Ch. 1) CP

Smolowe, Jill. "[Sex, Lies, and Politics: He Said, She Said](#)", *Time Magazine*. October 21, 1991.

#### **Wednesday, January 25: Through the Labyrinth – Women and Leadership**

\*\*\*Guest Lecture: Representative Mary Gonzalez\*\*\*

Newton-Small. 2016. *Broad Influence* (Introduction, Ch. 11, and Epilogue).

#### **Monday, January 30: The Women's Movement**

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

#### **Wednesday, February 1: Mexican American Voter Enfranchisement**

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

\*\*\*FIRST PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENT DUE\*\*\*

#### **Monday, February 6: Visit to the State Capitol**

Welcome to the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislature [Podcast](#), *Texas Tribune*

#### **Wednesday, February 8: Women and Texas Politics**

\*\*Guest lecture by Emily Ramshaw – editor of *Texas Tribune*

Ura, Alexa. "Women Still Underrepresented in Legislative Races", [Texas Tribune](#). January 4, 2016.

"Women and Politics", [Texas State Historical Association](#).

#### **Monday, February 13: The Feminist Movement**

Rosen, Ruth. 2000. *The World Split Open*. (Ch. 1) CP

#### **Wednesday February 15: Latina Feminism**

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

#### **Monday February 20: Latina Trailblazers – Catching Fire?**

Garica, Sonia, Valerie Martinez-Ebers, Irasema Coronado, Sharon A. Navarro, and Patricia Jaramillo. 2008. *Politicas: Latina Public Officials in Texas*. (Ch. 3) CP

**Wednesday, February 22: Module 1 Exam**

**Monday, February 27: Women as Political Candidates**

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

[Poderpac.com](http://Poderpac.com) (Read over the different sections of the website)

**Wednesday, March 1: 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.

**Monday, March 6: The Latina Advantage?**

Bejarano, Christina E. 2013. *The Latina Advantage: Gender, Race, and Political Success*. (Intro., Chs. 1-3)

**Wednesday, March 8: Women Legislators**

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

Bejarano, Christina E. 2013. *The Latina Advantage: Gender, Race, and Political Success*. (Ch. 4)

\*\*\*SECOND PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENT DUE\*\*\*

**SPRING BREAK MARCH 13-17**

**Monday, March 20: Women Legislators II**

\*\*Guest Lecture by former Texas State Senator Leticia Van de Putte

Newton-Small. 2016. *Broad Influence* (Chs. 2-3).

DeFrancesco Soto. “Two Texan Latinas Cross Political Aisles, Create Consulting Firm”, [NBCNews.com](http://NBCNews.com). December 28, 2015.

DeFrancesco Soto. “Meet Wendy Davis’ Running Mate”, [MSNBC.com](http://MSNBC.com). February 24, 2014.

**Wednesday, March 22: Women in Executive Leadership**

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

Newton-Small. 2016. *Broad Influence* (Chs. 1 & 4).

Lilley, Sandra. “Governor Susana Martinez to speak at the Republican National Convention.” [NBCLatino.com](http://NBCLatino.com). August 6, 2012.

**Monday, March 27: Women and Non-elected Leadership Roles– First Ladies**

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

Watson, Robert P. and Anthony J. Eksterowicz. 2006. *The Presidential Companion: Readings on the First Ladies*. (Part 5 Overview, Chs 11 & 13) CP

**Wednesday, March 29: Women and Non-elected Leadership Roles**

Newton-Small. 2016. *Broad Influence* (Chs. 5-9).

**Monday, April 3: Module 2 Exam**

**Wednesday, April 5: The Female & Latino Electorate**

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

Lopez, Mark Hugo et al. 2016. [“Democrats Maintain Edge as Party ‘Most Concerned’ for Latinos, but Views Similar to 2012.”](#) *Pew Research Center*. (Read entire report).

**Monday, April 10: The Gender Gap**

Dolan, Julie, Melissa Deckman, and Michele L. Swers. 2011. *Women and Politics: Paths to Power and Political Influence* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Ch. 3) CP

**Wednesday, April 12: 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*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. CP

Bejarano, Christina. 2014. [“The Latino Gender Gap in U.S. Politics.”](#) Guest blog on LatinoDecisions.com.

**Monday, April 17: 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*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. CP

\*\*\*THIRD PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENT DUE\*\*\*

**Wednesday, April 19: 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.

**Monday, April 24: Latina Grassroots Mobilization**

Hardy-Fanta, Carol. 1993. *Latina Politics, Latino Politics: Gender, Culture, and Political Participation in Boston*. (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.

**Wednesday, April 26: Portfolio Workshop**

**Monday, May 1: Latinas the 2018 Election and Beyond**

Readings TBA

**Wednesday, May 3: Module 3 Exam**

**Final Project due during our course’s scheduled final exam day. To be turned in via Canvas.**

\*\*\*LATINA LEADERS INTERVIEW DUE\*\*\*