University of Illinois at Chicago Spring 2013
SOC/LALS 229: Sociology of Latinos Syllabus
Lecture Center Building F F001
Tuesdays, Thursdays 12:30 PM-1:45 PM

Instructor
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 PM-4:00 PM or by appointment

Teaching Assistant
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00-12:00 PM, Wednesdays 1:00-2:00 PM or by appointment

Course Description
Statistics indicate that there are over 50 million so called “Latinos” and “Hispanics” in the United States. According to the 2010 Census, Hispanics/Latinos composed 16.3 % of the U.S. population, making them the largest minority group in the country. Considerable popular and academic debate has developed over the nature of this demographic growth. This class explores these debates, paying attention to the diversity and complexity of this group. This course also explores the history, migration and racial/ethnic experiences of the different groups (Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Dominicans, etc.) that compose the Hispanic/Latino category. Finally, this course explores how Hispanic/Latinos deal with stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination in the United States in the context of transnationalism, identity building, new destinations, and immigration among others.

Course Objectives

• Critical understanding of major sociological concepts and theories related to race and ethnicity, and Latinos/as
• Increase understanding of majority/minority relations from a sociological perspective and an understanding of race and ethnicity as socially constructed concepts
• Greater appreciation of the internal diversity among Latino communities in terms of history, migration, national identity, race, class, gender, and sexuality.
• Increase understanding of the racialization of Latinos
• Improve critical thinking skills applying theory into concepts and daily life.

Author: Juan Gonzalez. ISBN: 978-0-14-311928-9
Course Requirements:
This course requires students to read and analyze complex material. For this reason, I expect that students attend every class, do the readings and come to class prepared to discuss. This is a discussion class, meaning that I will not give long lectures. I will need active participation from students in class discussion. Because we will discuss and analyze so many racial issues, we will have disagreements in our opinions. I expect that everyone respect each other’s opinions, comments and disagreements in a respectful way. Be respectful of your instructor and classmates. Rude behavior towards others will not be tolerated. We will be engaging in discussion of racial issues in a respectful manner.

NOTE: The content of this syllabus is subject to change

Rules and Expectations

Availability
If you need to meet with me you can reach me at my office hours; if these hours do not work for you can reach the TA for the class, Jorge Ortiz at his office hours. If these hours do not work for you can make an appointment or another time with either of us. You can also reach me by email. Please allow me 24 hours to respond to your emails during weekdays. For emails that you send me during weekends I will take longer to respond.

Attendance
I expect you to attend every class. I know that there are circumstances in our life that we cannot control. For this reason, absences will only be excused with formal written documentation. Absences for religious observances are excused; however, if you expect to miss a class because of a religious observance, you will need to notify me of this as soon as possible. If you can give me advance notice of any absence, please do so. Remember that if you miss a class, you are responsible for the material covered in class. Students who miss a class will NOT be able to make up the points earned during class.

Participation
Participation is very important in this class. You have to actively participate in class discussion and in group activities in class. Also, get to class on time. It is disruptive and disrespectful to your instructor and your classmates to come to class late. Be sure to turn OFF cellular phones during class; unless you are “on-call,” and have made arrangements with the instructor to keep your phone on vibration. Also, texting is not allowed during class.

Writing Center
If you need help with your writing skills and grammar I encourage you to use the services available to you in the writing center.

UIC Writing Centers
105 Grant Hall
312-413-2206
http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing/tutored.html

Late Papers:
Papers must be submitted on Blackboard before the start of class and a hard copy at the beginning of each class. Assignments and papers are due at the beginning of class. Assignments will not be
accepted after class begins. **I WILL NOT accept late papers and you will get a zero if you turn your paper in late.**

**Plagiarism:**
You will be submitting your papers through the SafeAssignment system, which automatically scans every paper to check for plagiarism from the internet and from other students. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the UIC guidelines and penalties for academic dishonesty which are described in the UIC Student Handbook and the UIC Undergraduate Catalog ([http://www.uic.edu/ucat/catalog/GR.shtml](http://www.uic.edu/ucat/catalog/GR.shtml)). Students who plagiarize will receive a zero on the assignment, and will be reported to the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Therefore, plagiarism is not worth it. I will provide you with information that will help you avoid it. A useful resource can be found here: [http://www.uic.edu/depts/pols/Plagiarism1.pdf](http://www.uic.edu/depts/pols/Plagiarism1.pdf)

**Students with Disabilities**
If you are a student that has a disability (physical, learning, etc), UIC has resources that are available to you: [http://www.uic.edu/depts/oae/disability.html](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oae/disability.html). Please let me know if you need any accommodations.

**Religious Observances**
Students who wish to observe their religious holidays should notify me a week in advance. You can see the UIC policy on Observance of Religious Holidays at [http://www.uic.edu/depts/oae/](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oae/).

**Non Discrimination Statement**
“The commitment of the University of Illinois to the most fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity, and human dignity requires that decisions involving students and employees be based on individual merit and be free from invidious discrimination in all its forms. The University of Illinois will not engage in discrimination or harassment against any person because of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, disability, sexual orientation including gender identity, unfavorable discharge from the military or status as a protected veteran and will comply with all federal and state nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action laws, orders and regulations. This nondiscrimination policy applies to admissions, employment, access to and treatment in the University programs and activities.” (Source [http://www.uic.edu/depts/oae/nondiscrimination.html](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oae/nondiscrimination.html))

**ASSIGNMENTS**
In addition to doing the readings, there will be homework assignments, projects, and activities. Report assignments are described below.

**Take Home Assignments**
You need to answer four Assignments; worth 35 points each, this is 35% of your overall grade. You should submit the Assignment online, through the Safe-Assignment system and you will also be required to submit a hard copy of the Assignment to me in the beginning of each class. **I will not accept late Assignments.**
Application Papers (Critical Papers) (2-3 pages)
You need to write four critical papers, worth 50 points each 50% of your overall grade. The papers should be 2-3 pages long and you should include references. You should submit the paper online, through the SafeAssignment system and you will also be required to submit a hard copy of the paper to me in the beginning of each class. I will not accept late papers. An instruction sheet will be given for each paper.

In Class Activities
An additional 60 points (15% of your overall grade) will be earned for in class activities. These activities can include group activities, assignments, definition of concepts, discussion feedback memos, etc. You NEED to be present in class to earn these points.

Note: Schedule and format of class or assignments are subject to change.

Grading Scale:
To determine the overall grade, divide total points earned from the assignments by the total possible points. That percentage (from 0 to 100) determines letter grades as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100% - 90%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89% - 80%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79% - 70%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69% - 60%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59% - less</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GRADED ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities/Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class Activities (10)</td>
<td>60 (6 pts x 10)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers (Critical Papers) (5)</td>
<td>200 (50 pts x 4)</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments (4)</td>
<td>140 (35 pts x 4)</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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SCHEDULE

Tuesday, January 15th
Class Introduction
No Readings
Discussion of the Syllabus

INTRODUCTION

Thursday, January 17th
Oboler, Suzanne. Hispanics? That’s What They Call US

Tuesday, January 22nd

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Thursday, January 24th

Tuesday, January 29th

Thursday, January 31st

Assignment Due: Assignment # 1

WHO ARE THE LATINOS?

Tuesday, February 5th

Thursday, February 7th

Assignment Due: Assignment # 2

Tuesday, February 12th
Thursday, February 14th

Assignment Due: Assignment # 3

Tuesday, February 19th
García, Maria Cristina. Seeking Refuge: Central American Migration to Mexico, the United States, and Canada

Thursday, February 21st

Assignment Due: Assignment # 4

IDENTITY, RACE AND ETHNICITY

Tuesday, February 26th

Thursday, February 28th

Tuesday, March 5th

Wednesday, March 7th

Assignment Due: Short Paper # 1
IMMIGRATION AND PERCEPTION OF LATINOS

Tuesday, March 12th

Thursday, March 14th

Tuesday, March 19th

Thursday, March 21st

Assignment Due: Short Paper # 2

Tuesday, March 26th NO CLASS –SPRING BREAK

Thursday, March 28th NO CLASS –SPRING BREAK

MEDIA

Tuesday, April 2nd

Thursday, April 4th

LATINAS

Tuesday, April 9th
Thursday, April 11th

Assignment Due: Short Paper # 3

EDUCATION
Tuesday, April 16th

Thursday, April 18th

CLASS AND POLITICS
Tuesday, April 23rd

Thursday, April 25th

Tuesday, April 30th

Thursday, May 2nd
Summary and Feedback of Class

Assignment Due: Short Paper # 4