LATINO WORKERS IN THE UNITED STATES
37:575:307
FALL 2012

Instructor:
Vanessa Casanova
vancasan@work.rutgers.edu

Course Description
This course examines the experience of Latino workers in the United States through a review of the current scholarship in this field. We will draw on literature from various disciplines including sociology, economics, geography and demography. We discuss the factors that impact labor migration from sending countries including U.S. foreign and domestic policy; the patterns of Latino settlement in the United States; the Latino experience in the U.S., the role of Latino workers in U.S. society and the U.S. economy; the impact of the new migration on the U.S. labor market and social policy.

Course Competencies
At the conclusion of this course it is expected that students will be able to:

• Understand, critically analyze and synthesize academic, policy and popular sources of literature regarding the experience of the diverse groups of Latino workers in the United States labor market

• Express themselves clearly and concisely in writing about course topics.

Relationship to Rutgers Learning Goals:

This course relates to the overall objective of a liberal arts education in the area of 21st century challenges. A Rutgers University SAS graduate will be able to:

• Analyze the degree to which forms of human difference shape a person’s experiences of and perspectives on the world.

Course Organization
Week 1: Course Orientation
Week 2: Introduction to Course Content
Week 3: Immigration & Native-born Latinos
Week 4: Ethnic Economies & Social Networks
Week 5: Labor Force Participation
Week 6: Spatial & Skills Mismatch
Week 7: Occupations
Week 8: Course Project Work Week
Week 9: The Latina Labor Force
Week 10: Immigrant Competition vs. Complementarity
Week 11: Guest Workers & Undocumented Workers
Week 12: Organizing Latino Workers
Week 13: Latino Professionals & Latino Youth
Week 14: Wrap-up & Final Exam

Course Requirements

The course involves:

Reading, Audio/Video Assignments
Reading – Students will read book chapters, academic journal articles, newspapers articles and other reports. All required reading is be posted in the course shell.

Webliography – This course involves contemporary topics, which are regularly in the news or are discussed on the Internet. Beyond the reading material uploaded into the course to pages associated with each week’s topic, I will post interesting reading, videos and links to websites in the Webliography. Anything posted here is not required reading but might be useful to you as you work on your course project or post to the forum. Students are encouraged to share reading, videos and links of interest to the class in the Webliography.

Audio/Visual – Student will occasionally be required to watch instructor generated video presentations as well as watch other videos and listen to audio presentations related to Latino workers in the U.S. All video and audio material is provided through links within the course shell.

Writing Assignments

Reading Response Entries

There are 4 Reading Response Entries assigned in this course. You have 1 week to complete each Reading Response Entry.

Reading response entries are at least 500 words in length. They are meant to be a brief but thoughtful response to all of the readings for that week. Insightfulness and clarity are important. The weekly response entries are meant to help me gauge your understanding of the week’s lectures and readings. A reading response paper does not re-tell the "story" in the material but it does identify the main ideas as well as the relationships of these ideas to course themes/issues and to other course materials (synthesis).

In the course shell, you can find a template to help you organize your ideas. You may use the template if you wish, but it is not necessary.

There are two areas of review within a student’s reading response entries: content and mechanics.

Content: (50 points)
You must demonstrate to me that you have completed all the assigned reading by identifying the main themes in the reading and how they relate to the week’s topic (synthesis).

Mechanics: (20 points)
Grammar, spelling and sentence structure are important. Students must also be mindful of sentence structure and how ideas are presented.

These reading response entries are scored as an important measure of your engagement with the week's topics.

Due Dates:
Reading Response Entry A: Week 5; Due by 11:59 pm 10/9
Reading Response Entry B: Week 8; Due by 11:59 pm 10/30
Reading Response Entry C: Week 11; Due by 11:59 pm 11/27
Reading Response Entry D: Week 12; Due by 11:59 pm 12/4

Forums

Forums are asynchronous discussions, which student groups use to process and synthesize course content. In each forum, I will provide you with a newspaper or magazine article, brief video or audio recording from current events related to Latinos in the U.S. After reading, watching or listening, it is expected that you will engage in an online forum discussion with other members of the class. Leading questions will be posted with each forum. It is expected that you give your initial impressions in your first post and then engage your classmates in subsequent posts.

There are 4 forums assigned in this course. Each forum is 1 week in length. **A missed forum cannot be made up.**

There are three areas of review within a student’s forum comment: content/synthesis, participation and mechanics.

Content/Synthesis: (35 points)
Students are required to engage in an informed academic discussion on selected course topics within each forum. Students are also required to synthesize the forum discussion with the course reading for the week and/or from prior weeks.

Participation: (20 points)
Students are required to cultivate an online learning community that will enable you to understand and synthesize weekly topics. Engaging with and responding to the ideas of other students through this online learning community will give students a broader appreciation of the ideas put forth in the class.

During weeks that forums are open there is a “first comment by” deadline of 11:59 pm on Sunday. Missing the “first comment by” deadline will result in an automatic 5-point participation deduction. Making all comments in 1 day at anytime during the forum open period will also result in a 5-point deduction.
There is a 3-comment minimum for each forum. Remember the idea is to engage and respond (react) to the commentary. Making 2 comments results in a 7-point deduction; making only 1 comment will result in a 15-point deduction.

3-comment minimum does not apply to the Intro Forum, but you may wish to interact with your classmates.

Mechanics: (5 points)

Grammar, spelling and sentence structure are important. This is an online forum – but it is an online forum in an upper level college class! Students must also be mindful of sentence structure and how ideas are presented.

Due Date:
Introduction Forum (1)  Opens 9/12; Closes 11:59 pm 9/18 (40 pts)
Forum 2  Opens 9/26; First comment by 9/30; Closes 11:59 pm 10/2
Forum 3  Opens 10/10; First comment by 10/14; Closes 11:59 pm 10/16
Forum 4  Opens 11/7; First comment by 11/11; Closes 11:59 pm 11/13

Course Project: Position Power Point Project

This course examines the experiences of the diverse groups of Latino workers in the United States’ labor market through a review of current scholarship in this field. As part of this process, students will investigate a current issue significant to the Latino workforce in the U.S. and prepare a Power Point presentation that summarizes their findings and reflects their position on the issue.

Procedures

Choose Your Issue

Select a current issue significant to the Latino workforce in the U.S. You must make your selection from the following four choices.

- The DREAM Act and/or DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)
- Alabama House Bill 56

Once your topic is selected, you should do some research on the subject matter. While you may already have an opinion on your topic and an idea about which side of the argument you want to take, you need to ensure that your position is well supported. Listing out the pros and cons/sides of the topic will help you examine your ability to support your counterclaims, along with a list of supporting evidence for both sides.

Before you begin your project, familiarize yourself with how to write a position paper, there are many sources on-line that can be found through a simple Google search. Remember that your job on this project is to take one side of an issue and persuade your audience (me) that you are knowledgeable on the issue and you can support your position with evidence. You must also be able to discuss the opposing
position and refute their claims with research-based evidence. You must cite all your sources. Your sources (minimum of 6) should come from academic, popular (reputable) and on-line research.

The following guide has been set up especially for this class; there are excellent resources here that will be useful for your project and throughout the semester.

http://libguides.rutgers.edu/latinoworkers

Communicate Your Choice

You must communicate your issue choice to me, WITH YOUR POSITION, through email by 11:59 pm on October 18, 2012. If you do not communicate your choice to me by said date, I will choose a topic for you and email this to you by October 20, 2012.

Remember, when you choose your topic to ask yourself whether there are two identifiable positions in your topic and whether you can clearly articulate your position. Also, consider whether there is enough research and evidence to support your position.

Project Requirements

Slides and Notes Page Requirements

The minimum number of content Power Point slides is 16. Let’s try to keep the maximum number at around 30.

This maximum number does not include the title page, content divider slides or the bibliography.

Your Issue Position Power Point Project should be written with a persuasive and confident tone (although you must always back up your position(s) with research and facts).

Template

The following is a template for arranging your Power Point Project. This template is not a suggestion! If you arrange your project as closely as possible to this template, you will ensure that you have included all the necessary elements of your project.

1) Introduction/Background (four-six slides)
   a. Introduce the topic
   b. Background information/details surrounding the issue
   c. Your view on the issue
2) Alternatives (four-six slides)
   a. Detailed discussion of alternative positions
   b. Provide supporting information for alternative positions
   c. Detailed discussion of reason(s) for writer’s position (refute the counterclaims)
   d. Provide evidence for your argument
3) Your Argument (four-six slides)
a. Assert point #1 (#2, #3…) of your claims
b. Give your opinion
c. Provide support

4) Summary and Conclusion (four-six slides)
   a. Restate the importance of the issue
   b. Restate your position
   c. Mention additional research/discovery needed from others that would be helpful to furthering knowledge on the issue

5) Works cited (one slide)

Other Requirements

- You must include notes pages with your Power Point Presentation. Your notes pages tell me what you cannot in your slides. If this were a face-to-face class, you would present your power point with some details and discussion not presented on the slides. Your notes pages will take the place of these details and discussion.

- Students must properly cite all sources. Students can receive free assistance at the Rutgers Learning Centers (LRC’s). To learn more about the LRC’s visit: http://lrc.rutgers.edu All Power Point Projects must include a “Works Cited” page within the Power Point Presentation (final slide).

- Your work must be your own!! Plagiarism: All students should know and abide by academic ethics. “Plagiarism is the representation of words or ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise” (Policy on Academic Integrity, Rutgers, New Brunswick). Information is available on the following web site: http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/student.html.

Grading

The development and submission of this course project represents 20% (200 points) of your final grade. It will be assessed on 3 dimensions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Content</td>
<td>60% (120 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student thoroughly presents both sides of an issue and clearly expresses their own position on the topic. Student uses a minimum of 6 sources, which include academic articles.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grammar</td>
<td>25% (50 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student demonstrates proper grammar usage and correct spelling throughout the Power Point presentation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Originality</td>
<td>15% (30 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student has original ideas and innovatively uses facts from their research to support</td>
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</tbody>
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Online Tests

Quiz
A list of key terms will be posted during Week 2. You will be quizzed on these key terms in Week 3. The Key Terms Quiz opens on 9/21 and is due by 11:59 pm on 9/24. The quiz will consist of multiple choice, true/false and fill in the blank questions.

Final Exam
The final exam is a comprehensive exam. It will consist of essay, short answer, multiple choice, true/false and fill in the blank questions. Final Exam opens on 12/14 at 12:01 am and closes on 12/16 at 11:59 pm.

Grading
A final grade is based on a 1000-point system. Each assignment is worth a specific number of points. Total points accumulated determines final course grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>900-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>870-899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>800-869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>700-799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>600-699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>599 points and below</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The points are accumulated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Assignment and Associated Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing Assignments</strong></td>
<td>Forums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>• Introductory Forum 40 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Unit Content Related Forum 60 points each (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reading Response Entries 70 points each (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course Project</strong></td>
<td>Issue Position Power Point Project 200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Online Tests</strong></td>
<td>Terms Quiz – 50 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Final Exam – 250 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Policies and Procedures

Class Sessions
The success of this course depends on active engagement and dialogue by members of the class. You must be fully prepared to discuss and debate the issues raised in the assigned reading material. The course week begins on Wednesday for all weeks, with the exception of week 1 which begins with the semester on a Tuesday.

- You are expected to enter the course for the first time on the first day of the semester, Tuesday, September 4, 2012.
- The last day you are expected to log into the course prior to final grades being posted is Sunday, December 16, 2012.

A weekly message will be sent to you each Wednesday. In addition, I will upload this message into the course weekly messages file in document sharing and Course Announcements by 12pm (noon) each Wednesday.

Each week of the semester is divided into Units. In each Unit, I will introduce the topic for the week in the weekly message. This message will contain key terms and phrases; link you to power point slides and/or videos. Each Unit will also contain your reading for the week.

Keeping current with the material and assignments is vital to your success in the course. You are expected to participate in the online class each week fully prepared to discuss and debate the issues raised in the assigned reading material. Exam material will draw heavily from material covered in lectures, reading response entries and forum discussions.

Due Dates
This is not a self-paced class! All assignments must be completed by dates indicated on the course calendar. Deadlines are listed in the syllabus with the course assignments section as well as on the course calendar available in the course shell. Thus, you have significant notification of deadlines.

Reading response entries and the Position Power Po int Project will be accepted up to 24 hours late for a deduction of 10% of the assignment points. Assignments will not be accepted past this 24-hour late period. No exceptions to this policy will be made.

Forums lock after 11:59pm on the Tuesday following the week in which it was assigned. No comments or responses can be posted after this time. Missed Forums cannot be made up, no exceptions.

The Key Terms Quiz will open at 12:01am on Thursday, September 20. You must complete the quiz by 11:59 pm on Sunday, September 23. A missed quiz may be made up only with extenuating circumstances.

Communication
You should inform the professor of any personal emergencies that may arise which will prevent you from getting online. I am available via email at any time and I generally try to answer emails on the same day they are received. You may also reach me on my cell phone at 956-639-1698. Please reserve this form of contact for only pressing issues. I prefer not to be called before 9am or after 10pm. You may also
send me a text message. I have a Frequently Asked Questions tab in which I will share questions and answers that will be useful for the entire class. Please check this tab frequently as it may contain the answers you are looking for. I am here to help you to succeed in the class – but communication is crucial.

**Course Topics and Assignments by Week**

**Week 1: September 5 – September 11**  
*Course Orientation*

◊ **Assignments:** 1st Weekly Message; Required reading on Course Home Page

◊ **Course Work Reminder:** Respond to Instructor email by 11:59pm, Tuesday, September 11

◊ **Reading – Course Process**  
  o Syllabus, Calendar, Five Critical Steps for Successful Online Learning

**Week 2: September 12 – September 18**  
*Introduction to Latino Workers in the U.S.*

◊ **Assignments:** 2nd Weekly Message; Introductory Forum (Forum 1)

◊ **Course Work Reminder:** Introductory Forum closes at 11:59pm on Tuesday, September 18

◊ **Reading:**  

◊ **Webliography**

**Week 3: September 19 – September 25**  
*Imigration*

◊ **Assignments:** 3rd Weekly Message; Weekly Assigned Reading

◊ **Course Work Reminder:** Key Terms Quiz opens on Thursday, 9/20 – Key Terms Quiz due by 11:59 pm, Sunday, 9/23

◊ **Reading:**  
◊ Video:
  Mexico – A Death in the Desert

◊ Webliography

Week 4: September 26 – October 2
Ethnic Enclaves/Economies & Social Networks

◊ Assignments: 4th Weekly Message; Weekly Assigned Reading; Forum 2

◊ Course Work Reminder: First Comment in Forum 2 due by 11:59 pm, September 30; Forum 2 closes 11:59 pm, October 2

◊ Reading:

◊ Webliography

Week 5: October 3 – October 9
Labor Force Participation

◊ Assignments: 5th Weekly Message; Weekly Assigned Reading; Reading Response Entry A

◊ Course Work Reminder: Reading Response Entry A due by 11:59pm, October 9

◊ Reading:

◊ Webliography

Week 6: October 10 – October 16
Spatial and Skills Mismatch
 Assignments: 6th Weekly Message; Weekly Assigned Reading; Forum 3

 Course Work Reminder: First comment in Forum 3 due by 11:59 pm, October 14; Forum 3 closes 11:59 pm, October 16

 Reading:

 Webliography

 Week 7: October 17 – October 23

 Occupations

 Assignments: 7th Weekly Message; Weekly Assigned Reading

 Course Work Reminder: Communicate Project topic and position via Dropbox by October 18, 11:59pm

 Reading:
 Chicken: The Dangerous Transformation of America’s Favorite Food, Steve Striffler Chapter 6 “Inside a Poultry Plant” pp. 111-134
 “Making Carpet by the Mile: The Emergence of a Mexican Community in an Industrial Region of the U.S. Historic South” Hernandez-Leon and Zuniga.

 Webliography

 Week 8: October 24 – October 30

 The Latina Labor Force

 Assignments: 8th Weekly Message; Weekly Assigned Reading; Reading Response Entry B

 Course Work Reminder: Reading Response Entry B due by 11:59 pm, October 30

 Reading:
"Empleadas in the USA: Latina Domestic Workers Negotiating Power Among Boundaries of Race, Class and Gender." pp. 299-312.

◊ Webliography

Week 9: October 31 – November 6
Course Project Work Week

◊ Assignments: 9th Weekly Message; Position Power Point Project

◊ Course Work Reminder: Position Power Point Project due by 11:59 pm, November 6 via Dropbox

Week 10: November 7 – November 13
Immigrant Competition versus Immigrant Complementarity

◊ Assignments: 10th Weekly Message; Weekly Assigned Reading; Forum 4

◊ Course Work Reminder:
  First Comment in Forum 4 due by 11:59 pm, November 11; Forum 4 closes 11:59 pm, November 13

◊ Reading:

◊ Webliography

Week 11: November 14 – November 27 (Not including Thanksgiving Week)
Guest Workers and Undocumented Workers

◊ Assignments: 11th Weekly Message; Weekly Assigned Reading; Reading Response Entry C

◊ Course Work Reminder: Reading Response Entry C due by 11:59 pm, November 27

◊ Reading:
  ON THE CORNER: Day Labor in the United States, Valenzuela, Theodore, Meléndez Gonzalez, pp. i-34
  Latino Immigrants in Post Katrina New Orleans, pp. 1-6

◊ Webliography
Week 12: November 28 – December 4

*Organizing Latino Workers*

◊ **Assignments:** 12th Weekly Message; Weekly Assigned Reading; Reading Response Entry D

◊ **Course Work Reminder:** Reading Response Entry D due by 11:59 pm, December 4

◊ **Reading:**
  Worker Centers: Organizing Communities at the Edge of the Dream, Janice Fine, pp. 1-33

◊ **Video:** Farmingville

◊ **Webliography**

Week 13: December 5 – December 11

*Latino Professional & Latino Youth: The Next Generation*

◊ **Assignments:** 13th Weekly Message; Weekly Assigned Reading

◊ **Reading:**
  *Immigrant America*, Alejandro Portes and Ruben Rumbaut, Chapter 7 “Learning the Ropes: Language and Education” pp. 67-102

◊ **Webliography**

Week 14: December 12 – December 16

*Wrap-up and Review*

*Final Exam*

◊ **Final Exam Opens** – Friday, December 14, 12:01am

◊ **Final Exam Closes** – Sunday, December 16, 11:59pm