



COURSE SYLLABUS
Introduction to Latin American & U.S. Latino Studies
LALS 101.01W

WEB BASED CLASS

FALL 2020

Monday, **August 24** through Friday, **December 11**, 2020

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Robert G. Rodríguez
Associate Professor, Political Science
Coordinator, Latin American & U.S. Latino Studies Minor

Office Location: Ferguson Social Science Building 149
NOT APPLICABLE DURING FALL 2020 SEMESTER

Office Hours:
NOT APPLICABLE DURING FALL 2020 SEMESTER
The ONLY way to contact me is via email; I will normally respond within 24 hours (48 hours maximum). YouSeeU-Virtual Classroom Video Chats on D2L may be arranged upon request.

Office Phone: None. Please send me an email if you would like to contact me.
YouSeeU-Virtual Classroom Video Chats may be arranged upon request.

University Email Address: **robert.rodriguez@tamuc.edu**

Check the Syllabus to see if your question is answered FIRST.

Preferred Form of Communication: The ONLY way to contact me is via email.

****CHECK YOUR EMAIL AND D2L FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS DAILY****

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Book

LATINO POLITICS- 2nd Edition, by Lisa Bedolla, ISBN (for Digital version): 9780745686424

You should purchase the DIGITAL version of the required book for this course instead of the printed one, as it is less expensive than the printed version and you will have instant access to it--thereby avoiding potential shipping delays and higher costs. If you feel you must have the printed version of the book, that is fine, but keep in mind that you may not receive it in time to complete course assignments.

*****Please also note that there will be additional reading assignments for this course that will be accessible through D2L or the internet.*****

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary study of Latin America and the Latin American Diaspora in the United States, as manifested through politics, history, language, the arts, economics, and social realities. Students will be exposed to the principal themes and methodologies of Latin American and U.S. Latino Studies, by synthesizing contributions from various disciplines. The course emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration across various fields of study and provides students with a basic knowledge base for understanding Latin America and Latino/as in the United States in both a contemporary and historical perspective.

*****This course is required for completion of the LALS Minor. If you would like to declare the minor in LALS or would like more information about the LALS minor, please send me an email.*****

Format:

This is a FULLY ONLINE course that is ONLY accessible by logging in through **D2L Brightspace** on your **MyLEO** account. The course is instructor-led, with a schedule that is organized into four learning modules (Units). Learning materials and activities include **YouSeeU-Virtual Classroom video lectures for each unit, YouSeeU-Virtual Classroom video discussions, exams, a writing assignment, and a poster presentation.**

The course materials are divided into FOUR units:

- **Unit 1 (INTRODUCTION): Introduction to Latin American & U.S. Latino Studies; Latino Diversity in the U.S.; An Overview of Latin American History and Politics (August 24-September 18)**
 - *Student Statement of Personal Responsibility DUE September 9*

- **Unit 2 (POLICIES): U.S. Latino Immigration Policy; U.S.-Latin American Relations (September 21-October 16)**
 - *UNIT 1 & 2 Exam October 15-16*
- **Unit 3 (POLITICS): U.S. Latino Political Participation; Latinos in the 2020 Elections (October 19-November 13)**
 - *Writing Assignment DUE November 12-13*
- **Unit 4 (POPULAR CULTURE): Latin American and U.S. Latino Film; Sports in Latin America and among U.S. Latinos (November 16-December 4)**
 - *UNIT 3&4 Exam December 3-December 4*
- **Finals Week-Case Study Poster Presentations (December 7-December 11)**
 - *Poster Presentation Due December 7-December 8*

Student Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome:

Students will understand and employ significant theoretical and analytical approaches to explain Latin American and U.S. Latino Studies.

Global Learning Outcomes:

Learning Outcome 1: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends, and systems).

Learning Outcome 2: Students will be able to apply knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics.

Learning Outcome 3: Students will be able to view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & ASSIGNMENTS

Minimal Technology Required

USE CHROME OR FIREFOX BROWSERS WITH D2L—DO NOT USE Microsoft EXPLORER or EDGE as these tend to have bugs when using this learning platform

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and uploading digital images.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This course is divided into four units. Each unit contains a video overview and several readings. Several optional class video discussions using YouSeeU video chat on D2L will be scheduled throughout the semester. There will be two examinations, one for units 1&2, the second for units 3&4. A short writing assignment and poster presentation will also be required.

Your grade will be comprised of:

- A) Two Examinations (worth 30% each, 60% total),**
- B) One Writing Assignment (15%)**
- C) One Case Study Poster Presentation (25%), and**
- D) Your submitted Student Statement of Personal Responsibility (1% Extra Credit-- IF submitted to me by the deadline).**

Each element of your grade is described below.

A) Examinations: In this course, **all students are required to take TWO exams**, each of which will consist of 30 questions in a multiple-choice format. Exams are “open book,” **HOWEVER, you MUST NOT RECEIVE ASSISTANCE IN ANY WAY FROM ANYONE WHILE COMPLETING THE EXAM.** You will have **50 minutes** to complete each exam online. Together, these exams will comprise **60%** of your grade (each exam is worth 30%). The exams are NOT comprehensive. There is **NOT** a final exam in this course, but you will have to submit your poster presentation during Finals Week.

You will have a 48-hour window to complete each exam. **If you do not complete an exam during the designated 48-hour period, you will receive 0% for that exam.**

If you have a **legitimate reason** for not completing an exam during the designated period (e.g. severe illness or injury *requiring professional medical care*, emergencies in your *immediate* family, participation in *official* university activities, legal *obligations*) **AND** you have **supporting documentation** for your inability to take the exam, then you may **request** an extension of the period to take the exam.

Requests for taking the make-up exam must be **submitted in writing VIA EMAIL and include SCANNED documentation** explaining and substantiating why your inability to take the exam during the designated period was legitimate. An approval to extend the period for you to complete the exam **will be based solely upon the professor’s evaluation of your request and any supporting documentation.**

Note: *Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.*

IF YOU HAVE A TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEM DURING AN EXAM YOU MUST FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES LISTED HERE!!

Should you encounter D2L Brightspace based problems while submitting exams, the following procedure must be followed:

Students must report the problem BOTH to the help desk AND to your professor. You may reach the helpdesk at 1-866-656-5511. Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please. Other support options can be found here:

1. FIRST Contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 AND <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>
2. SECOND Send me an email IMMEDIATELY to advise me of the specific problem.
3. I will confirm your problem and follow up with you on how to proceed.

PLEASE NOTE: Your personal computer and internet access problems are not legitimate excuses for making up an exam. Only Brightspace-based problems are potentially legitimate reasons to get an extension to complete your exam.

IF YOU RECEIVE ASSISTANCE ON THE EXAM FROM ANYONE IN ANY WAY, THIS CONSTITUTES ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND YOU WILL RECEIVE AN AUTOMATIC “F” IN THIS COURSE AND POTENTIALLY FACE FURTHER DISCIPLINARY ACTION. (SEE “POLICIES” SECTION IN THIS SYLLABUS)

EXAM DUE DATES:

- *UNIT 1&2 (Exam 1) October 15-16*
- *UNIT 3&4 (Exam 2) December 3-December 4*

B) Writing Assignment: There will be one short (5 page) writing assignment in this course, which will be an analysis of a Latin American/U.S. Latino film -approved by your professor- that is a dramatization of real people/events (no documentaries) focusing on a Latin American country or the U.S. Latino community. This writing assignment is designed to provide political science majors and LALS minors with an artifact for their senior portfolio. (This course is required for the minor in Latin American & U.S. Latino Studies.) More details on the writing assignment, which is worth 15% of your grade, will be provided later in the course.

**** DO NOT EMAIL ME YOUR WRITING ASSIGNMENT- IT WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED THROUGH D2L ****

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:

- *Writing Assignment Due November 12-13*

C) Poster Presentation: You will be assigned to create a poster presentation of one of the five case studies in the Latino Politics textbook: Mexican Americans; Puerto Ricans; Cuban Americans; Dominicans; or Central Americans. This assignment is an INDIVIDUAL project, not a group project. You MUST follow the provided instructions and format to successfully complete this assignment. You must create and submit a high-quality photograph(s) of your poster on December 7-8 by 11:59pm (on the 8th). (High-quality means that I can clearly read all of the information you are displaying in your poster.)

Your case study chapter will be assigned to you (I may take requests if there is a specific reason you would like to select a particular case study). Even though more than one student will be assigned each case study, you are expressly prohibited from working together on this assignment). You will not have to actually present your poster, nor interact with others about your case study. Your poster presentation is worth 25% of your grade. I will provide you with the specific parameters/requirements/rubric for this assignment on D2L.

POSTER PRESENTATION DUE DATES:

- o *Poster Presentation Due Finals Week December 7-8*

D) STUDENT STATEMENT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY:

YOU MUST SUBMIT A STATEMENT ON D2L ACKNOWLEDGING YOU HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING *STUDENT STATEMENT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY* BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 by 11:59 p.m. This is a requirement to remain enrolled in this course and **1% extra credit** will be added to your total grade in this course **IF** you submit it to me by the deadline.

*****DO NOT EMAIL YOUR STATEMENT TO ME- IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. I WILL PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CLASS ON HOW TO SUBMIT A FILE ON D2L*****

Statement: I have read the syllabus in its entirety, and understand the guidelines and agree to the policies detailed therein as a condition of being enrolled in this course. I understand my obligation to adhere to these guidelines and policies in this course, and that failure to do so may result in serious consequences, including (but not limited to) being dropped from the course, and/or receiving a grade of "F" in the course.

STUDENT STATEMENT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY DUE DATE:

- o *Wednesday, September 9, by 11:59pm*

Grading

Your grade in this course will be determined by the following scale and criteria:

Exam 1 (Units 1&2):	30%
Exam 2 (Units 3&4):	30%
Writing Assignment:	15%
Poster Presentation:	<u>25%</u>
TOTAL:	100%

Submit Statement of Personal Responsibility on D2L: 1% extra credit if submitted on or before Wednesday, September 9 by 11:59pm.

A 90-100%; B 80-89.9%; C 70-79.9%; D 60-69.9%; F Below 60%

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

All course readings will be found in either: The Latino Politics book, the internet, or under the “content” tab of D2L.

August 24-September 18

Unit 1 (INTRODUCTION): Introduction to Latin American & U.S. Latino Studies; Latino Diversity in the U.S.; An Overview of Latin American Politics and History

Required Reading:

- Latino Politics, Chapter 1
- D2L, “Notes on Studying Politics in Latin America”
- D2L, “An Introduction to Twenty-First Century Latin America”
- Internet, “United States Census Bureau: Hispanic Heritage Month 2020”
<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/facts-for-features/2020/hispanic-heritage-month.html>
- Internet, About One-in-Four U.S. Hispanics Have Heard of Latinx, but Just 3% Use It <https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/2020/08/11/about-one-in-four-u-s-hispanics-have-heard-of-latinx-but-just-3-use-it/>
- Internet, US Hispanic population surpassed 60 Million in 2019, but growth has slowed <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/07/07/u-s-hispanic-population-surpassed-60-million-in-2019-but-growth-has-slowed/>

Required Activities:

- Watch Unit Overview Video on D2L
- **Purchase** your required book (digital version preferred)
- **Submit acknowledgment ON D2L** that you have read and agree to the Student Statement of Personal Responsibility (By 11:59pm, **Wednesday, September 9**)

September 21-October 16

Unit 2 (POLICIES): U.S. Latino Immigration Policy; U.S.-Latin American Relations

Required Reading:

- Latino Politics, Chapter 3
- D2L, "U.S. Immigration Policies in Historic Context: A Latin American Case Study"
- D2L, "PowerPoint: The United States, Texas and Latin America"
- Internet, "Latin America and Donald Trump" <https://www.the-american-interest.com/2016/12/30/latin-america-and-donald-trump/>
- Internet, "Trump in Latin America" <http://www.vecinosenconflicto.com/2017/01/trump-in-latin-america-alexander-main.html>

Required Activities:

- Watch Unit Overview Video on D2L
- *Take UNIT 1&2 Exam on D2L October 15-16*

October 19-November 13

Unit 3 (POLITICS): U.S. Latino Political Participation; Latinos in the 2020 Elections

Required Reading:

- Latino Politics, Chapter 2
- Internet, "Trump probably did better with Latino voters than Romney did" <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/trump-probably-did-better-with-latino-voters-than-romney-did/>
- Internet, "Key takeaways about Latino voters in the 2018 midterm elections" <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/11/09/how-latinos-voted-in-2018-midterms/>
- Internet, "Latinos could swing 2020 election in these six states" <https://www.newsweek.com/latinos-could-swing-2020-election-these-six-states-1516991>
- Internet, "Can Kamala Harris Excite More Latinos for Joe Biden?" <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/can-kamala-harris-excite-more-latinos-joe-biden-n1236521>
- Internet, "With Latino Power Rising, Kamala Harris Seeks to Connect" <https://www.cnn.com/2019/03/22/politics/kamala-harris-latino-voters-2020/index.html>

Required Activities:

- Watch Unit Overview Video on D2L
- *Writing Assignment DUE November 12-13*

November 16-December 4

Unit 4 (POPULAR CULTURE): Latin American and U.S. Latino Film; Sports in Latin America and among U.S. Latinos

Required Reading:

D2L, "Latinos in US Sport"
D2L, "Generals and Goals"

Required Activities:

- Watch Unit Overview Video on D2L
- Watch film "My Family, Mi Familia" on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpsyxuBChjI>
- Watch film "Cautiva" on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dOsnHJ-ekfo>
- *Take UNIT 3&4 Exam on D2L December 3-December 4*

Finals Week: December 7-December 8

Poster Presentation Assignment DUE

Required Activities:

Your assigned case study (chapter) and instructions on how to complete this project will be emailed to the class well in advance of the due date.

- *Submit your Poster Presentation Assignment on D2L December 7-December 8*

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Email

Before you ask me a question in an email, check to see if the syllabus answers your question FIRST. I generally reply to emails within 24 hours, Monday-Friday. Emails sent to me over weekends will be replied to on Mondays. I do not reply to emails that ask questions about items covered in the syllabus, such as what chapters are covered on an exam or what the assigned readings are for a given class session.

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

If you have any doubt as to what may constitute academic dishonesty, please consult with me prior to submitting any assignments.

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

TAMUC Pandemic Response Statements

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.