



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

WEB BASED CLASS
SUMMER I 2024

Monday, JUNE 3 through Wednesday, JULY 3, 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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

Office Location: Ferguson Social Science Building 149
NOT APPLICABLE DURING Summer I 2024

Office Hours:
NOT APPLICABLE DURING Summer I 2024
The ONLY way to contact me is via email; I will normally respond within 24 hours (48 hours maximum). Zoom Video Chats on D2L may be arranged upon request.

Office Phone: None. Please send me an email if you would like to contact me. ***Zoom 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- 3rd Edition, by Lisa Bedolla and Christian Hosam, ISBN (for PRINT version): 9781509537747

You can purchase ANY version of the required book for this course, printed or digital.

*****Please Note: 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 fulfills a university CORE requirement and is also 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 **Zoom video lectures for each unit, Zoom video discussions, exams, and 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 (June 3-June 10)**
 - *Student Statement of Personal Responsibility DUE Wednesday, June 5*

- **Unit 2 (POLICIES): U.S. Latino Immigration Policy; U.S.-Latin American Relations (June 11-June 17)**
 - *UNIT 1 & 2 Exam June 17*
- **Unit 3 (POLITICS): U.S. Latino Political Participation; Latinos in the 2020 Elections (June 18-June 24)**
 - *Writing Assignment DUE June 24*
- **Unit 4 (POPULAR CULTURE): Latin American and U.S. Latino Film; Sports in Latin America and among U.S. Latinos (June 25-July 3)**
 - *UNIT 3&4 Exam July 3*

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 as it tends 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 Zoom 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 will also be required.

Your grade will be comprised of:

- A) Two Examinations (worth 40% each, 80% total),**
- B) One Writing Assignment (20%)**
- c) 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 40 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 60 minutes to complete each exam online. Together, these exams will comprise **80%** of your grade (each exam is worth 40%). The exams are NOT comprehensive. There is NOT a final exam in this course.

You will have a 24-hour window to complete each exam. **If you do not complete an exam during the designated 24-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) June 17
- UNIT 3&4 (Exam 2) July 3

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 20% of your grade, will be provided later in the course. **YOU ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED FROM USING ANY FORM OF AI (such as CHAT GPT) IN THIS COURSE. ANY DISCOVERY OF USE OF AI WILL RESULT IN A GRADE OF “F” ON THE WRITING ASSIGNMENT. ALSO, ALL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO TURNITIN.COM, A PLAGIARISM DETECTION SITE, AND ANY INSTANCES OF PLAGIARISM WILL ALSO RESULT IN A GRADE OF “F” ON THIS ASSIGNMENT.**

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

WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:

- Writing Assignment Due June 24

C) 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, June 5 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, June 5, by 11:59pm*

Grading

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

Exam 1 (Units 1&2):	40%
Exam 2 (Units 3&4):	40%
Writing Assignment:	20%
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.

June 3-June 10

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 Introduction Latinos and US Politics
- D2L, “Notes on Studying Politics in Latin America”
- D2L, “An Introduction to Twenty-First Century Latin America”
- Internet, “Who is Hispanic?” <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/09/15/who-is-hispanic/>
- Internet, “Key facts about U.S. Latinos for National Hispanic Heritage Month” <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/09/23/key-facts-about-u-s-latinos-for-national-hispanic-heritage-month/>
- Internet, “About 6 million U.S. adults identify as Afro-Latino” <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/05/02/about-6-million-u-s-adults-identify-as-afro-latino/>
- Internet, “Hispanics officially make up the biggest share of Texas’ population, new census numbers show” <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/06/21/census-texas-hispanic-population-demographics/>

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, June 5**)

June 11-June 17

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

Required Reading:

- In-class PowerPoint Presentation: “An Overview of US-Latin American Relations”
- Latino Politics, Chapter 8 Conclusion Latino Migration and Mobilization in Context

- D2L, “U.S. Immigration Policies in Historic Context: A Latin American Case Study”
- Internet, “Biden Wants to Compete With China in Latin America”
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/02/10/biden-latin-america-china-competition-trade/>
- Internet, “Biden, Cuba, and Latin America’s Left Turn”
- <https://www.thenation.com/article/world/latin-america-immigration-biden-mexico-cuba/>
- Internet, “Explainer: U.S. Immigration Policies and Their Impact on Latin Americans”
<https://www.as-coa.org/articles/explainer-us-immigration-policies-and-their-impact-latin-americans>

Required Activities:

- Watch Unit Overview Video on D2L
- *Take UNIT 1&2 Exam on D2L JUNE 17*

June 18-June 24

Unit 3 (POLITICS): U.S. Latino Political Participation; Latinos in the 2018, 2020 and 2022 Elections

Required Reading:

- Latino Politics, Chapter 7 Latina/o Participation Individual Activity and Institutional Context
- D2L, “Has the Sleeping Giant Awakened in Kansas?: An Overview of Latino Voting Behavior in the Sunflower State”
- Internet, “Chart: How U.S. Latinos Voted in the 2020 Presidential Election”
- <https://www.as-coa.org/articles/chart-how-us-latinos-voted-2020-presidential-election>
- Internet, “Latino Republicans hold distinct views on guns and immigration, highlighting their shaky ties to GOP”
<https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2022/11/07/latino-republicans-hold-distinct-views-on-guns-and-immigration-highlighting-their-shaky-ties-to-gop/>
- Internet, “Chart: How U.S. Latinos Voted in the 2022 Midterm Election”
<https://www.as-coa.org/articles/chart-how-us-latinos-voted-2022-midterm-election>
- Internet, “GOP fell short in Latino-heavy areas along U.S-Mexico border”
<https://rollcall.com/2022/11/17/gop-fell-short-in-latin-heavy-areas-along-u-s-mexico-border/>

Required Activities:

- Watch Unit Overview Video on D2L
- *Writing Assignment DUE JUNE 24*

June 25-July 3

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 film "My Family, Mi Familia" on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYdawHjNIL8>
- *Take Unit 3&4 Exam 2 on D2L July 3*

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

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.

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

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.

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 University 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>

Code of Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Failure to comply with the Code of Student Conduct and commonsensical directions listed above may result in a verbal request to cease inappropriate behavior, your immediate removal from the class, being dropped from the class, and/or a review by an appropriate university disciplinary agency. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook:

http://www.tamuc.edu/student_guidebook/Student_Guidebook.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

Velma K. Waters 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

<https://www.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campuservices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/default.aspx>

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 Counseling Center Statement

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel.