

El Paso Community College
Syllabus
Part II
Official Course Description

SUBJECT AREA	<u>Government</u>
COURSE RUBRIC AND NUMBER	<u>GOVT 2311</u>
COURSE TITLE	<u>Mexican American Politics</u>
COURSE CREDIT HOURS	<u>3 3 : 0</u> Credits Lec Lab

I. Catalog Description

Provides an overview of both historical and contemporary Mexican-American political organization and engagement at the local, state, and national levels in the United States. Includes topics on electoral politics, political representation, demographic trends, cultural issues, and other contemporary public policy debates. **Prerequisite: READ 0309 or INRW 0311 or ESOL 0340 or by placement exam or ENGL 1301 with a “C” or better or ENGL 1302 with a “C” or better. (3:0).**

II. Course Objectives

- A. Discuss the history, heritage, culture, and issues affecting people of Mexican descent living in the United States.
- B. Discuss the history of Mexican-American political movements and issues surrounding the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, labor issues, immigration and repatriation, the Bracero Program, civil rights, and the Chicano movement.
- C. Describe the regional nature of the culture and politics of the Mexican-American population.
- D. Explain the construction of identity among the various Latino subgroups and how identity is instrumentalized as part of the political process.
- E. Analyze the debates over assimilation and “Americanization.”
- F. Identify the strategies for political engagement among the Mexican-American community, including grassroots politics and community activism.
- G. Discuss forms of Mexican-American political organization and electoral behavior.
- H. Discuss current survey research on Mexican-American political attitudes and explain patterns of partisanship among Mexican-American voters.
- I. Describe the media’s influence on the image and perception of Mexican-Americans.
- J. Discuss the major political organizations that serve the interests of the Mexican-American community as well as the goals and strategies of those organizations.
- K. Identify the major issues related to gender, including the importance of gender roles and gender differences in political participation by Mexican-Americans.
- L. Discuss the struggle of Mexican-Americans for political and social equality and the role of the American judicial system in promoting their civil rights.
- M. Identify current demographic trends and immigration policies regarding Mexican-Americans and their influence on current political debate.
- N. Discuss current immigration debates in the context of the history of Mexican-American immigration and citizenship in the United States.
- O. Identify the major public policy issues of importance to the Mexican-American population, including education, civil rights, and language policies.

III. Evaluation

- A. Students may be evaluated using various techniques not limited to but may include testing and examinations, research papers, community projects, extra credit and other written and electronic assignments. Furthermore, grading will follow current EPCC catalog standards. The assignment of letter grades to numerical or percentage scores is to be determined by the individual Instructor and is noted in Part I of this Syllabus.

Grade Scale:

A = Excellent

I = Incomplete (See current college catalog for explanation)

B = Above Average

W = Withdrew or withdrawn (See current college catalog for explanation)

C = Average

D = Below Average

F = Failing

- B. **Text/Materials:** One or more of the departmentally approved textbooks or reading packets in use for a two-year period. See Part I of this syllabus for the textbook(s) or other readings required by your instructor.
- C. **Attendance Policy:** Unless noted otherwise by your Instructor (see Syllabus, Part I) the current college catalog policy on attendance and course pursuit will apply to this course.

IV. Disability Statement (American with/Disabilities Act [ADA])

EPCC offers a variety of services to persons with documented sensory, mental, physical, or temporary disabling conditions to promote success in classes. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the Center for Students with Disabilities to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Offices located: VV Rm C-112 (831-2426); TM Rm 1400 (831-5808); RG Rm B-201 (831-4198); NWC Rm M-54 (831-8815); and MDP Rm A-125 (831-7024)

V. 6 Drop Rule

Students who began attending Texas public institutions of higher education for the first time during the Fall 2007 semester or later are subject to a 6-Drop limit for all undergraduate classes. Developmental, ESL, Dual Credit and Early College High School classes are exempt from this rule. All students should consult with their instructor before dropping a class. Academic assistance is available. Students are encouraged to see Counseling Services if dropping because exemptions may apply. Refer to the EPCC catalog and website for additional information.