LEH 301—Explorations in Latino History and Sociology

Section:    XT 81; meets in 101 BX (Bronx Science)

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Office Hours: APEX 261, Tuesdays 12:00–1:00 p.m. and by appt.

Required Text: Purchase at Lehman College Bookstore:
David A. Badillo, Latinos and the New Immigrant Church

Other required readings are listed below.

LEH 301 (XT81) Explorations in Latino History and Sociology. 3 hours, 3 credits.
Interdisciplinary study of Latinos in the United States, with a focus on the historical, literary, linguistic, and sociological sources. PREREQ: 60 credits toward undergraduate degree

This course explores national and global migration patterns, inter-group relations, and challenges of defining an identity among immigrants and their offspring from Latin America. Several assignments will examine linkages between Latinos and other immigrant/ethnic groups with respect to language, religion, and culture. Readings, lectures, and other presentations seek to develop critical awareness of contrasts and similarities among various Latino waves of migration since the early twentieth century, as well as comparisons of contemporary groups. We will also learn to view the Bronx as a spatial and temporal laboratory for contemporary historical and sociological developments.

Assignments consist of three papers. The first will be 4-5 pages, the second 7-8 pages, and the final paper 4-5 pages.
Participation in class discussions will also count toward the final grade.

Course Requirements:

a. Attendance, punctuality, and active participation in all class sessions, discussions, and activities are expected. Absences and lateness will result in a lowered grade.

b. All assignments must be handed in punctually or the grade will automatically be lowered.

c. All papers must be word-processed, double-spaced, with page numbers inserted. Papers must not contain any plagiarized, borrowed, or otherwise non-paraphrased materials.
Required Readings:
Text (available for purchase at the Lehman College Bookstore):
   David A. Badillo, Latinos and the New Immigrant Church (Johns Hopkins University
   Press, 2006)

To Be Sent Out as an Email Attachment during the First Week of Classes:
2. Margaret Ramirez, “Faith that Fuses African Rites and Catholicism Gains in Popularity”
   Chicago Tribune (November 6, 2005)
3. Joel Najar, Beyond Ellis Island: Latino Immigration to the United States (Washington,

To Be Received as an Email Attachment before Spring Break:
   (Migration Policy Institute, 2006)
5. Victor Davis Hanson, “Do We Want Mexifornia? The Flood of Illegal Immigration into
   California Raises Urgent Questions that the Whole Nation Must Face,” City Journal (Spring
   2002)

Schedule of Readings and Assignments:
January 30: Course Introduction and Overview
David Rieff, “Nuevo Catholics” New York Times Magazine
Margaret Ramirez, “Faith that Fuses African Rites and Catholicism Gains in Popularity”

February 6: Ethnic Models and Latino Identity: Sociology and Anthropology
Najar, Beyond Ellis Island, Chapters 1-2

February 13: Latino Cultural and Political History
Beyond Ellis Island, Chapters 3-5

February 20: Culture, Identity, and Community Development
Badillo, Latinos and the New Immigrant Church, Introduction and Chapter 1
Paper Assignment #1 Due: Profiles of Latino Historical Identity (4 pp.)

February 27: Mexican Americans and Immigration
Latinos and the New Immigrant Church, Chapter 2

March 6: Caribbean Migration and the Latino Diaspora
Latinos and the New Immigrant Church, Chapter 3 and 4

March 13: Varieties of Latino Urban Religion
Latinos and the New Immigrant Church, Chapters 5 and 6

March 20: Globalization and New Immigration
Latinos and the New Immigrant Church, Chapter 7, 8, and Epilogue
March 27: Religion and Society
Paper Assignment #2 Due: Latino Religion (7 pp.)

April 3 and April 10: Spring Break—No Class Meetings

April 17: Public Policy, Debate, and Reform

April 24: Immigration Reform I
Victor Davis Hanson, “Do We Want Mexifornia?”

May 1: Immigration Reform II
Roger Lowenstein, “The Immigration Equation”

May 8: Beyond Public Policy: Cultural Costs and Contributions
Guest Lecture on Immigrant Culture

May 15: Ethnic Models Revisited: Summary Conclusion
Discussion of Themes and Debates in Immigration/Paper Topics
(Last Class Meeting)

May 23: Deadline for Submission of Paper Assignment #3:
Immigration Policy and the Latino Experience (4 pp.)