History 6351: Literature and Methodology of the Borderlands
Fall 2019

This course examines Borderlands historiography by focusing on its content and the context of its production. While the writing of national histories has a long tradition, the mapping of the Borderlands’ past is a more recent project. First emerging in the early twentieth century with the work of Herbert Eugene Bolton, the field was reinvigorated in the 1990s as borders around the world changed and neoliberalism instilled national boundaries with new meanings. In the twenty years since this class was first conceptualized, Borderlands history has gone through amazing changes and the field has boomed. In light of this reality, the course will concentrate on the newest scholarship in Borderlands history, while also discussing older works.

Class Requirements: In addition to mandatory class attendance and participation, you will have three writing assignments based on the readings: a short historiographical essay (6-7 pages. The due date for this essay is contingent on the topic, but it should be turned in no later than two weeks after we discuss that theme), one long synthetic essay (15-20 pages, due December 12), and an annotated bibliography that you should be working on throughout the semester and will be due December 3. These essays are designed to be the first drafts of papers that you will include in your qualifying portfolio. For the historiographical essay, you want to make broad links between the scholarship in a given field. Rather than cover many readings, the paper should strive for coherence and make connections between ideas. The synthetic essay should be viewed as your interpretation of a given subject based on the known historiography. Your annotated bibliography should include the books and articles read in this class and those you will use for your papers. I will provide you with instructions for all the writing assignments. The articles will be posted on Blackboard and we will also use the site for general communication.

Grade Distribution: Class attendance and participation: 25%; historiographical essay: 25%; synthetic essay: 30%; annotated bibliography: 20%.

Required Texts:
Gloria Anzaldúa, Borderlands/La Frontera.
Juliana Barr, Peace Came in the Form of a Woman: Indians and Spaniards in the Texas Borderlands.
Geraldo Cadava, Standing on Common Ground: The Making of a Sunbelt Borderlands.
Genevieve Carpio, Collisions at the Crossroads: How Place and Mobility Make Race.
E. H. Carr, What is History?
Miroslava Chávez-García, Migrant Longing: Letter Writing Across the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.
Ramón Gutiérrez, When Jesus Came the Corn Mothers Went Away: Marriage, Sexuality, and Power in New Mexico, 1500-1846.
Julian Lim, Porous Border: Migrations and the Law in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.
Anthony Mora, *Border Dilemmas: Racial and National Uncertainties in New Mexico, 1848-1912.*
Monica Perales, *Smellettown: Making and Remembering a Southwest Border Community.*

**Week 1: August 27**
Introduction

**Week 2: September 3**
What is (Borderlands) History?

**Readings:**


**Week 3: September 10**
Colonial New Mexico

**Reading:**

**Complementary Readings:**

**Week 4: September 17**
Women, Gender, and Power in Colonial Texas

**Readings:**
Juliana Barr, *Peace Came in the Form of a Woman: Indians and Spaniards in the Texas Borderlands.*
Week 5: September 24
Mexican Identity Formation in the Borderlands

Readings:


Complementary Readings:

Week 6: October 1
Constructing the U.S.-Mexico Border

Readings:
Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera*.


Complementary Readings:

Week 7: October 8
The Case of New Mexico

Readings:
Anthony Mora, *Border Dilemmas: Racial and National Uncertainties in New Mexico, 1848-1912*.


Complementary Readings:

Week 8: October 15
Industry, Empire, and Environment in Arizona

Week 9: October 22
The Case of Tucson, Arizona

Readings:


Complementary Readings:

Week 10: October 29
The Case of El Paso, Texas

Reading:
Monica Perales, *Smeltertown: Making and Remembering a Southwest Border Community*.


Complementary Readings:

Week 11: November 5
Policing the Borderlands

Readings:


Complementary Readings:
Week 12: November 12
A Multiracial Borderlands

Readings:

Complementary Readings:
Elliot Young, *Chinese Migration in the Americas from the Coolie Era to World War I* (2014).

Week 13: November 19
Violence in the Borderlands

Reading:

Complementary Readings:

Week 14: November 26
Mobility and Race in the Borderlands

Reading:
Genevieve Carpio, *Collisions at the Crossroads: How Place and Mobility Make Race.*

Week 15: December 3
Courtship and Family in the Borderlands

Readings: