

SPRING 2020
MONDAYS 5-7:50
LIBERAL ARTS 322

DR. LESLIE WATERS
LIBERAL ARTS 312
OH:M 3-4:30; T 2-4
OR BY APPOINTMENT
lwaters@utep.edu

HISTORY OF BORDERLANDS IN EASTERN EUROPE & EURASIA

HIST 5306-002

Course Description

This course will be run in a seminar format with extended readings and student-led discussions.

This course focuses on the concept of borderlands as it has been applied to modern Eastern European and Eurasian history. Scholars have used the term to describe the cultural, religious, and linguistic heterogeneity of the region, an inheritance of the empires that dominated the area up until the First World War. Other scholars focus on borderlands as spaces of violence, where nationalist rivalries are taken to extreme.

HIST 5306 will introduce students to the major theoretical debates and recent scholarship on borderlands in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, with an emphasis on how research methods and analytical frameworks might be applied to other geographical areas.

Course Goals

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate familiarity with recent scholarship in the field of borderland studies in Eastern Europe and Eurasia
- Convey a working knowledge of the central methodologies and analytical frameworks related to the topic
- Analyze "spatialized" social relationships created by borders and in borderlands
- Make comparisons to borderlands in other geographical and historical contexts

REQUIRED TEXTS

All required texts are available for purchase at the UTEP bookstore.

Pamela Ballinger, *History in Exile: Memory and Identity at the Borders of the Balkans* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002). ISBN: 978-0691086972

Donald Bloxham, *The Great Game of Genocide: Imperialism, Nationalism, and the Destruction of the Ottoman Armenians* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007). ISBN: 978-0199226887

Kate Brown, *A Biography of No Place: From Ethnic Borderland to Soviet Heartland* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005). ISBN: 978-0674019492

Rogers Brubaker, Margit Feischmidt, Jon Fox and Liana Grancea, *Nationalist Politics and Everyday Ethnicity in a Transylvanian Town* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006). ISBN: 978-0691136226

Mark Cornwall, *The Devil's Wall: The Nationalist Youth Mission of Heinz Rutha* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2012). ISBN: 978-0674046160

Eagle Glassheim, *Cleansing the Czechoslovak Borderlands: Migration, Environment, and Health in the Former Sudetenland* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2016). ISBN: 978-0822964261

Michael Khodarkovsky, *Bitter Choices: Loyalty and Betrayal in the Russian Conquest of the North Caucasus* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011). ISBN: 978-0801479526

Edith Sheffer, *Burned Bridge: How East and West Germans made the Iron Curtain* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014). ISBN: 978-0199314614

Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin* (New York: Basic Books, 2010). ISBN: 978-0465002399

Gregor Thum, *Uprooted: How Breslau Became Wroclaw during the Century of Expulsions* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2011). ISBN: 978-0691152912

Tara Zahra, *Kidnapped Souls: National Indifference and the Battle for Children in the Bohemian Lands, 1900-1948* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2008). ISBN: 978-0801477607

Course Requirements

All course requirements must be completed in order to pass the course.

Course Grades



- Participation (20%)
- Discussion Lead (10%)
- Topic Response Paper I (20%)
- Topic Response Paper II (20%)
- Borderlands Community Research Project (30%)

Participation



Students are expected to attend all class meetings, do the course readings, and actively participate in class discussion. Students are permitted one absence over the course of the term. Subsequent absences will result in a reduction of your participation grade. If you anticipate having to miss more than one class, please meet with me. Chronic attendance problems may result in failure of the course.

We will begin each class meeting with a brief roundtable discussion, meaning that each of you should come prepared to speak for about two minutes on the day's readings. Your comments should do one of the following: a) you can pose an analytical question that relates to the day's reading; b) you can make a remark on something you found particularly significant, surprising, or confusing; c) you can make a connection between that day's reading and something we discussed earlier in the semester.

Discussion Lead



During the semester, each of you will have a chance to lead discussion for the first half of the seminar. In anticipation, you will write a 250-500-word introduction to the day's topic and readings, in which you map out some of the key questions and ideas the class should address. The introduction should be emailed to the seminar members at least 48 hours prior to the class meeting time.

Topic Response Papers



The course is divided into four topics, from which you will choose two, and write a 5 to 7-page (1,500-2,000 words) essay on each. These are analytical/historiographical essays in which you will summarize and critique authors' arguments and methodologies, discuss similarities and divergences in the scholarship, and/or consider the ways in which the frameworks and methodologies might be applied in another geographical context. In addition to the assigned readings, the topic response papers should incorporate an additional monograph on the topic. **Due dates: Topic I: Feb. 24; Topic II: Mar. 23; Topic III: April 14; Topic IV: May 4**

Borderland Community Project



Students will research a borderland community in Eastern Europe/Eurasia and write a paper that describes the community (demographics, geography, economy, politics) and discusses a historical issue that has impacted that community. Papers should be 16 to 20 pages (4,000 to 5,000 words). Further details will be distributed later on in the semester. **Due date: May 15**

COURSE SCHEDULE

January 27 Introductions: Eastern Europe as Borderland

- Omer Bartov and Eric D. Weitz, “Introduction: Coexistence and Violence in the German, Habsburg, Russian, and Ottoman Borderlands,” in Bartov and Weitz eds., *Shatterzone of Empires* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2013), 1-22. (Bb)
- Paul Readman, Cynthia Radding, and Chad Bryant, “Introduction: Borderlands in a Global Perspective,” in Readman, Radding, and Bryant eds., *Borderlands in World History, 1700-1914* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), 1-26. (Bb)
- Larry Wolff, “Introduction,” *Inventing Eastern Europe: The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1994), 1-16. (Bb)

TOPIC I: BORDERLANDS & EMPIRE

February 3 Eastern European Variants of Imperialism

- Pieter M. Judson, “Marking National Space on the Habsburg Austrian Borderlands, 1880-1918,” in Bartov and Weitz eds., *Shatterzone of Empires* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2013), 122-135. (Bb)
- Frithjof Benjamin Schenk, “Travel, Railroads, and Identity Formation in the Russian Empire,” Bartov and Weitz eds., *Shatterzone of Empires* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2013), 136-151. (Bb)
- Eric D. Weitz, “Germany and the Ottoman Borderlands: The Entwinning of Imperial Aspirations, Revolution, and Ethnic Violence,” Bartov and Weitz eds., *Shatterzone of Empires* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2013), 152-171. (Bb)
- Elke Hartmann, “The Central State in the Borderlands: Ottoman Eastern Anatolia in the Late Nineteenth Century,” Bartov and Weitz eds., *Shatterzone of Empires* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2013), 172-192. (Bb)

February 10 Imperial Expansion

- Michael Khodarkovsky, *Bitter Choices: Loyalty and Betrayal in the Russian Conquest of the North Caucasus* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011).

February 17 Imperial Contraction

- Donald Bloxham, *The Great Game of Genocide: Imperialism, Nationalism, and the Destruction of the Ottoman Armenians* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007).

TOPIC II: NATIONAL IDENTITY & BORDERLANDS

February 24 National Indifference

- Tara Zahra, *Kidnapped Souls: National Indifference and the Battle for Children in the Bohemian Lands, 1900-1948* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2008).

March 2 Everyday Ethnicity

- Rogers Brubaker, Margit Feischmidt, Jon Fox and Liana Grancea, *Nationalist Politics and Everyday Ethnicity in a Transylvanian Town* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006).

March 9 Historiographical Approaches to National Identity

- Jeremy King, "The Nationalization of East Central Europe: Ethnicism, Ethnicity and Beyond," in Nancy M. Wingfield and Maria Bucur, eds., *Staging the Past: The Politics of Commemoration in Habsburg Central Europe, 1848 to the Present* (Purdue: Purdue University Press, 2011), 112-152. (Bb)
- Gábor Egry, "Beyond Politics: National Indifference as Everyday Ethnicity," in Maarten van Ginderachter and Jon Fox, *National Indifference and the History of Nationalism in Modern Europe* (New York: Routledge, 2019). (Bb)
- Zachary Doleshal, "National Indifference and the Transnational Corporation: The Paradigm of the Baťa Company," in Maarten van Ginderachter and Jon Fox, *National Indifference and the History of Nationalism in Modern Europe* (New York: Routledge, 2019). (Bb)
- Tara Zahra, "Imagined Noncommunities: National Indifference as a Category of Analysis," *Slavic Review* 69, no. 1 (Spring 2010): 93-119. (Bb)
- Alex Toshkov, "The Phantom Subject of 'National Indifference': A Response to Tara Zahra," *Slavic Review* Discussions. (Bb)

TOPIC III: POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES & BORDERLANDS

March 23 Borderlands or Bloodlands?

- Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin* (New York: Basic Books, 2010).

March 30 Internationalism and Borderlands

- Kate Brown, *A Biography of No Place: From Ethnic Borderland to Soviet Heartland* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005).

April 6 Fascism, Sexuality, and Borderlands

- Mark Cornwall, *The Devil's Wall: The Nationalist Youth Mission of Heinz Rutha* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2012).

TOPIC IV: NATION BUILDING & ETHNIC CLEANSING

April 13 Relocating a Borderland

- Gregor Thum, *Uprooted: How Breslau Became Wrocław during the Century of Expulsions* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2011).

April 20 Environmental History in the Borderlands

- Eagle Glassheim, *Cleansing the Czechoslovak Borderlands: Migration, Environment, and Health in the Former Sudetenland* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2016).

April 27 Creating a Borderland

- Edith Sheffer, *Burned Bridge: How East and West Germans made the Iron Curtain* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014).
- Jessica Allina-Pisano, "From Iron Curtain to Golden Curtain: Remaking Identity in the European Union Borderlands," *East European Politics and Societies*, vol. 23, no. 2 (Spring 2009), 266-290. (Bb)

May 4 Memory and Belonging in the Borderlands

- Pamela Ballinger, *History in Exile: Memory and Identity at the Borders of the Balkans* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002).