

## **LABS 5301 Issues in Border Studies/ MAIS 5350 Special Topics**

Fall 2016

Thursday 6-8.50pm

College of Business Admin 330

### **Course Overview**

Instructor: Dr Silvia Torezani

Office Hours: Th 5-6pm and by appointment

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This course looks at the production and effects of borders and social boundaries as two sides of the “same coin”. We will be looking at borders from multiple and different perspectives, including cultural, ideological, territorial, technological, sporting, financial and historical deployments of visions of the world, across social worlds. We will take comparative approaches of border issues and implications for the understanding of these social phenomena in specific contexts, including the U.S. - Mexico, the Middle East, European and Asian borders. Our periods of focus will be the 20th and 21st centuries. We will use conceptual toolkits to analyze moral and practical implications of contemporary issues in border studies.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

Learning Outcomes: at the end of this course students should have gained a) a clear understanding of conceptual frameworks to analyze the production and effects of borders and social boundaries; b) the ability to assess critically the various conceptual frameworks; c) the skills to apply conceptual frameworks to the analysis of case studies and assess social discourses on borders and immigration d) the skills to imagine alternatives through thinking critically and creatively about border issues (territorial and social).

### **Course Format**

This course will run as a seminar. All meetings will be based on the extensive, in-depth, discussion of readings and related themes. It is your responsibility to always come to class prepared, having completed the assigned texts thoroughly. You are required to bring to class a 4-5 page critical review of the assigned readings. Whenever there are multiple readings assigned, you will work on the main required books but will need to also refer to the other articles' assigned for the day, making sure to demonstrate that you have completed all the materials. Periodic papers are part of the Class Attendance and Participation grade.

### **Required Texts**

There are five required books for this class plus a selection of readings. Books must be purchased. The other selected readings will be made available through Blackboard (see “Readings” folder), uploaded one week ahead of their due dates:

1. Bauman, Z., & Donskis, L. (2013). *Moral Blindness: The Loss of Sensitivity in Liquid Modernity*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

2. Boehm, D. (2016). *Returned: Going and Coming in an Age of Deportation*. Oakland: University of California Press.

3. Gellner, D. (2013). *Borderland Lives in Northern South Asia*. Durham: Duke University Press.
4. Ribas, V. (2016). *On the Line: Slaughterhouse Lives and the Making of the New South*. Oakland: University of California Press.
5. Weber, L., & Pickering, S. (2014). *Globalization and Borders: Death at the Global Frontier*. Palgrave MacMillan.

## Assignments & Grades

There are three types of assignments for this class that will earn you up to a maximum of 500 points (100%). Two of them are multi-part assignments, and they are:

1. **Class Attendance and Participation**, 150 points (30%) [6 x 15 = 90 periodic papers; 1 x 30 leading discussion; 30 overall class participation]
2. **Community Engagement Activity Report**, 1, 100 (20%)
3. **Final Research Paper** (multi-part, topic of choice on relevant border issues), total of 250 (50%), divided as follows,
  - a. Paper Draft 1, 25 (5%)
  - b. Paper Draft 2, 50 (10%)
  - c. Annotated Bibliography, 50 (10%)
  - d. Paper Digital Poster, 50 (10%)
  - e. Final Research Paper (all revisions incorporated), 75 (15%)

Note: **Attendance and participation** are a basic requirement for this course. You will need to bring your written, printed out and referenced critical review [periodic paper].

**Note:** I will NOT accept emailed or hand-written versions of your review]. Your periodic paper must have the following components. (Submit using underlined sub-headings as shown below):

You will receive specific guidelines per assignment early in the semester.

## Grading Scale (in points and percentages)

A 90%-100% = 450-500; B 80%-89% = 400-449; C 70%-79% = 350-399;  
D 60%-69% = 300-349; F below 59% = 299 or below.

*Note*<sub>1</sub>: It is important, and your responsibility, to keep track of your grades. They will be uploaded onto Blackboard within a week or so of each submitted assignment.

*Note*<sub>2</sub>: Grades are a reflection of effort. You will earn an A only if your work has been of consistent high quality, always demonstrating a high level of preparedness and work towards developing conceptual nuance in your analysis. A B grade also requires you to demonstrate consistent and high quality work with demonstrated awareness of key concepts and how to make use of them in your analysis of the discussed topics. A C will probably reflect a less consistent approach to the courses' requirements, which tends to go hand in hand with missing classes, rapid readings with little attention to detail and overall weak demonstration that you can apply concepts learned to critically analyze the topics discussed. If you are concerned about your grade, please approach me early to discuss your concerns and work out possible ways to address them. A course with a grade of C or better counts toward your MA degree, but you must maintain a 3.0 or better GPA (B grade average) to stay out of probation, and you need a 3.0 GPA or better to graduate.

## **Course Policies**

### **Submitting Assignments**

Except for the periodic papers on readings and the oral presentation/poster, all other assignments must be submitted via Blackboard. Please do NOT email them to my UTEP email (unless you wish to do so as a back up only). I will grade the papers on Blackboard using a grading rubric. You will need to format your assignments as .doc or .docx files, so I can give you feedback on the document. Please do NOT pdf or submit your files as .txt, as I cannot make comments on these formats. Make sure to format your document with 1 inch margins (all margins) and double-spaced lines. Use a clear font, such as Times New Roman or Times and a 12 point font size. Always write your name, student number and specify assignment on the first page. Also give your assignments a relevant title and use headings to break up the content into smaller sections. This will help you develop a clearer final paper.

Submit your assignments by the due date and time. Late submissions will incur point deductions as follows:

- Late by one day -5%
- Late by two days -10%
- Late by three days -15%
- Late by four days -20%

No grade will be given if assignments are submitted by five or more days after the deadline, unless you have a documented (i.e. medical) justification, in which case you should contact me as soon as possible and before 5 business days of the missed deadline.

**Always cite and referenced your sources.** Select and use a specific citation and referencing style (i.e. APA, Chicago, MLA, etc.). Check that all sources are properly acknowledged to avoid plagiarism (intentional or unintentional). I use a function called SafeAssign to check against potential plagiarism. Please note, ALL assignments, whether they are 1 or 10 page long require use of appropriate in-text citations and references, otherwise points will be deducted.

### **Backing Up Your Work**

We all know that technology can, at times, interfere with our workflow, potentially causing loss of work. The good news is that we can avoid these situations by setting up a system of regular backups for all our work. It is your responsibility to make sure you back up your work safely and regularly to avoid missing deadlines. It is also your responsibility to keep copies of all your graded work, as I will return it to you. It is a good idea to back up using more than one device and means. Generally, emailing yourself a copy of your work to your personal email address, using free storing applications such as Dropbox, using an usb flash drive and an external drive, besides saving your work to your personal computer's hard drive, is highly recommended. If you happen to lose your work due to technological malfunction of work not backed up, I will not be able to accept your late submission.

### **Technology Malfunction**

There are computer labs and printers installed throughout campus for students to use. Always plan your work with plenty of time to avoid missing deadlines. Note that technology malfunction (i.e. your computer dying, getting a virus or your printer running out of ink, for example) are not acceptable exceptional circumstances for this class.

### **Using Blackboard**

This course utilizes the Blackboard for additional readings, grades, announcements to class, and specified assignment submissions. If you require, you can access help by contacting the Help

Desk. Visit <http://admin.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=63402> for more details.

### **Course Communication**

My preferred means of communication with student is in person during student's hours or via email. I also use the "Announcements" function on Blackboard extensively hence, it is really important that you check Blackboard on a regular basis between class times. You should allow between 24-48 hours for the instructor to respond during week days, and up to 72 hours during weekend or public holidays. I always welcome interaction with students. Should you have any questions or concerns relevant to this class or that may affect your performance at any point in time during the semester, please make sure to get in touch with me. I am available during the student hour each week or by appointment. It is always in your best interest to act promptly and contact me with plenty of time, so I can assist you. Please do not wait until the last minute to discuss you concerns with me, as I may not be able to help.

### **Information subject to change**

While I have made my best effort to provide dates for due readings and assignments, they may be subject to change at your professor's discretion and with the purpose to enhance learning. Should any change take place you will be given due notice in class and via Blackboard or email.

### **Help with Writing**

The UWC or University Writing Center (Library Building 277, on the ground floor) provides a range of services at no cost. Call 747-5112 or visit <http://academics.utep.edu/writingcenter> for more information. The UWC offers online tutoring whereby you upload your paper and they provide comments.

### **Library Services**

The UTEP Library offers a range of services to support students' research (i.e. how to use databases, how to cite and reference). Visit <http://libraryweb.utep.edu/services/contact.php> for more details.

### **Counseling Center**

The University Counseling Center offers confidential support to students struggling in their studies due to a diverse range of issues, in English and Spanish. They are located at 202 Union West. Call 747-5302 to make an inquiry or visit their website <http://sa.utep.edu/counsel/>, for more information.

## **University Policies**

### **Academic Integrity**

As a university student, you are responsible for your own academic behavior and for making yourself fully aware of the university's policies and definition of academic integrity. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student and passing unauthorized materials during an assessment. Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional; regardless, it is a form of academic dishonesty. Intentional plagiarism occurs when someone knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person as her/his own. Unintentional plagiarism occurs when someone else's work has been paraphrased (instead of copying verbatim) but without properly acknowledging the source of information, that is without providing the in-text citations (author, year, page number) and the full source of reference at the end of the text (so that your

paraphrasing can be tracked down and checked if needed). Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit academically dishonest actions. If you have any questions about how to correctly cite sources, please discuss it with me. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for disciplinary action. In addition to receiving a failing grade in this class, students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions. Further information can be gained from the UTEP Dean of Students web page. Go to <http://www.utep.edu/dos/>, then click the “Student Conduct” tab on the top.

### University Policy on Special Needs

If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Disabled Student Services Office in the East Union (747-5184). I will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me before or after class or make an appointment to discuss any special needs you might have as promptly in the semester as possible.

## Course Schedule

### WEEK 1 AUG 25 Introductions and Students’ Research Interests

#### Topic: Border Epistemologies and Labor

##### Readings Due

1. Mezzadra, S., & Neilson, B. (2013). *Border as Method, or, the Multiplication of Labor*. Durham: Duke University Press. [Chs 1 & 2, See Blackboard]

##### Assignments Due

1. Reading reflection (see Bb announcement)
2. Personal reflection on borders

### WEEK 2 SEP 1

#### Topic: Moral Blindness, Humanity, Soccer, Walls and Other Borders

How do borders affect modern social anxieties and how do these anxieties impact on our ideas of freedom and sovereignty? How do moralities of “evil” and the right to sovereign claims to a state compare across the fields of soccer and wars?

##### Readings Due

1. Bauman, Z., & Donskis, L. (2013). *Moral Blindness: The Loss of Sensitivity in Liquid Modernity*. Cambridge: Polity Press. [Introduction and Chapter 1]
2. Győri Szabó, R. (2012). Identity and soccer in Corsica. *Soccer and Society*, 13(1), 36-55. doi: 10.1080/14660970.2012.627166 [See Blackboard]
3. Mossberg, M. (2014). One Land-Two States? An Introduction to the Parallel States Concept. In M. LeVine & M. Mossberg (Eds.), *One Land, Two States: Israel and Palestine as Parallel States* (pp. 1-28). Berkeley: University of California Press. [See Blackboard].
4. Raab, A. (2012). Walls and goals: the Israeli-Palestinian encounter in football films and

literature. *Soccer and Society*, 13(5-6), 789-794. doi:10.1080/14660970.2012.730779 [See Blackboard]

### **Assignments Due**

1. Periodic Paper (1)

## **WEEK 3 SEP 8**

### **Topic: Globalization and Contemporary Borders**

What are some of the most common characteristics of border deaths around the world? What are some of the differences the authors discuss regarding the Global North and the Global South borders? What are the effects of militarized borders versus bureaucratic borders? What are the different types of borders discussed by the authors? How do the authors propose charting borders? What is the role of border control policy in relation to the accounting of death? If you were a policy maker working towards social change regarding the regulation of mobilities, what would you propose?

### **Readings Due**

1. Weber, L., & Pickering, S. (2014). *Globalization and Borders: Death at the Global Frontier*. Palgrave MacMillan. [Introduction and Chapters 1, 2 and 3]
2. Khosravi, S. (2007). The “illegal” traveller: an auto-ethnography of borders. *Social Anthropology*, 15(3), 321-334. doi:10.1111/j.0964-0282.2007.00019.x [See Blackboard]

### **Assignments Due**

1. Periodic paper (1)

## **WEEK 4 SEP 15**

### **Topic: Morality, Liquid Modernity and Borderland Lives [South Asia Part 1]**

### **Readings Due**

1. Bauman, Z., & Donskis, L. (2013). *Moral Blindness: The Loss of Sensitivity in Liquid Modernity*. Cambridge: Polity Press. [Chapter 2]
2. Gellner, D. (Ed.). (2013). *Borderland Lives in Northern South Asia*. Durham: Duke University Press. [Introduction and Chapter 1]

### **Assignments Due**

1. Periodic paper (3)
2. Details of Community Engagement Activity / Organization selected and proposed plan of action

## **WEEK 5 SEP 22**

### **Topic: Morality, Liquid Modernity and Borderland Lives [South Asia,**

## Part 2]

### Readings Due

1. Bauman, Z., & Donskis, L. (2013). *Moral Blindness: The Loss of Sensitivity in Liquid Modernity*. Cambridge: Polity Press. [Chapter 3]
2. Gellner, D. (Ed.). (2013). *Borderland Lives in Northern South Asia*. Durham: Duke University Press. [Chapters 2, 3, 4 & 5]

### Assignments Due

1. Periodic Paper (4)
2. Paper Draft 1 (Topic Selection related work)

## WEEK 6 Sep 29

### Topic: Liquid Modernity, Sensitivity and Death by Sovereignty

### Readings Due

1. Bauman, Z., & Donskis, L. (2013). *Moral Blindness: The Loss of Sensitivity in Liquid Modernity*. Cambridge: Polity Press. [Chapter 5]
2. Weber, L., & Pickering, S. (2014). *Globalization and Borders: Death at the Global Frontier*. Palgrave MacMillan. [Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7 and Conclusion]

### Assignments Due

1. Periodic Paper (5)

## WEEK 7 OCT 6

### Topic: Colored Borders, Proliferation of Labor in the U.S. South and South Asia [Borderland Lives Part 3]

### Readings Due

1. Gellner, D. (Ed.). (2013). *Borderland Lives in Northern South Asia*. Durham: Duke University Press. [Chapters 6, 7 & 8]
2. Ribas, V. (2016). *On the Line: Slaughterhouse Lives and the Making of the New South*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Chapters 1 & 2]

### Assignments Due

1. Periodic Paper (6)
2. Paper Draft 2

## WEEK 8 OCT 13

### Topic: Colored Borders, Proliferation of Labor in the U.S. South and South Asia [Borderland Lives Part 4]

### Readings Due

1. Gellner, D. (Ed.). (2013). *Borderland Lives in Northern South Asia*. Durham: Duke University Press. [Chapters 9, 10 & Afterword]

- Ribas, V. (2016). *On the Line: Slaughterhouse Lives and the Making of the New South*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Chapters 3 & 4]

### **Assignments Due**

- Periodic Paper (7)

## **WEEK 9 OCT 20**

### **Topic: Relevant Border Issues- Student's Research Perspectives**

Students will select, circulate and present TWO key scholarly articles that are relevant to their specific final research paper topic AND part of their Annotated Bibliography. The focus here will be in developing a clear, research-informed introduction to the central specific border issues that your paper will be addressing. This will be a forum for discussion, debate and feedback between peers. By now, you are expected to have done most of the readings for this class and significant progress (45 % or more) towards completion of your final paper, therefore, your discussion should be very well informed and grounded in current and relevant scholarly literature. Estimate 20 minutes for your presentation.

### **Readings Due**

- Students' Selected Readings -Oral Presentations
- Annotated Bibliography

## **WEEK 10 OCT 27**

### **Topic: Proliferation and Disaggregation of Labor in the U.S. South**

#### **Readings Due**

- Boehm, D. (2016). *Returned: Going and Coming in an Age of Deportation*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Prologue & Chapter 1]
- Ribas, V. (2016). *On the Line: Slaughterhouse Lives and the Making of the New South*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Chapters 5, 6, 7 & 8]

### **Assignments Due**

- Periodic Paper (8)

## **WEEK 11 Nov 3**

### **Topic: Proliferation and Disaggregation of Labor Across the U.S.-Mexico Border**

#### **Readings Due**

- Boehm, D. (2016). *Returned: Going and Coming in an Age of Deportation*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & Epilogue]

Mezzadra and Nielson [Chapters 1& 2 - See R1 from week 1 on Blackboard]

### **Assignments Due**

- Periodic Paper (9)
- Border Issues Matrix [Class Activity based on integration of ALL readings throughout the semester. Please bring ALL your texts]

## WEEK 12 Nov 10

### Topic: Borders and Labor -Reflections on an Epistemology

#### Readings Due

1. Mezzadra and Nielson [Chapters 1 & 2 - See R1 from week 1 on Blackboard]

#### Assignments Due [In-Class Activity]

1. Border Issues Matrix [Class Activity based on integration of ALL readings throughout the semester. Please bring ALL your texts]

## WEEK 13 Nov 17

### Topic: Discussions on Community Engagement Activity & Report

#### Assignments Due

1. Oral Presentation on Community Engagement Experience and Reflections
2. Written Final Report on Community Engagement Activity

## WEEK 14 Nov 24 - Thanksgiving holiday / No Classes

## WEEK 15 Dec 1

### Topic: Final Papers' Digital Poster Presentations

Students will present the product of their final research papers in a brief oral format supported by the use of a “digital poster” (found as a PowerPoint presentation option). The presentation should demonstrate a completed research process (this is no draft!). However, feedback will be provided by peers, hence you will have the opportunity to make minor adjustments to your final written paper before.

#### Assignments Due

1. Final Paper's Digital Poster Presentations (Submit your poster via Blackboard before the start of class -Note that you will need to pdf your PP file before submitting it)

## WEEK 16 Dec 1: Exams Week

### Topic: Final Papers Submission (No Class Meeting)

#### Assignments Due

1. Final Paper (submit via Blackboard)