

The Border | Syllabus

LABS 3301 CEL* | CRN: 12898

August 28 – December 8, 2023
Liberal Arts Building, Room 207
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30-11:50 am

Instructor

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Office Hours

Wednesday 2:30-4:00pm
and by appointment

Course Overview

Borders are distinctive social spaces and, as such, they invite the production of multiple narratives, partly based on facts, partly fantasized. Borders convey at once images of territorial, cultural, and socio-economic separation from those "outside" their confines. Yet they are also characterized for the blending of territories, cultures, and socio-economic processes. Furthermore, borders can be conceived as spaces of transgression, especially through the mobility of people, ideas, and goods across them. Therefore, they are also construed as areas for the deployment of state power through mechanisms of protection. The impact of what takes place at these borders, however, reaches well beyond the borderlands, transforming the composition of populations, impacting national cultures and political systems. This course looks at borders as starting points for the study of broader historical and contemporary processes. This course also involves a community engagement and leadership component by working alongside a partner organization in El Paso, where students develop a practical approach to learning. This semester the CEL project's theme is the border walls within. This is a highly interactive course.

At the end of this course, students would have:

- A nuanced understanding of key social issues in the border region,
- Skills to critically assess, explain, and apply relevant scholarly work to analyze specific social problems.
- The ability to contribute their skills and knowledge with a community partner and the broader local community.
- The ability to communicate in writing and orally to diverse audiences.
- A deeper and engaged knowledge of the working of bureaucracies and borders.
- A more sophisticated understanding of processes of inclusion, exclusion, resistance, and cultural integration in the El Paso-Juarez region.
- Practice in working collaboratively with peers and instructors.

*The "CEL" designation for this course stands for "Community Engagement & Leadership" and is part of a new certificate program in the College of Liberal Arts (full details to be provided at the start of the course). Its purpose is to strengthen students' understanding of their role in society as engaged citizens and to build the knowledge and competencies that will

enable them to be socially responsible and participating community leaders. Accordingly, course assignments and assessments are developed in line with the CEL program mission in Liberal Arts, as well as within the broader framework and mission of UTEP's "Edge Advantages" goals.

Required Text

You will need to purchase one book for this class.

Horton, S. B., & Heyman, J. M. (2020). Paper trails: migrants, documents, and legal insecurity. Durham: Duke University Press.

Other required readings will be available for download via Blackboard and organized with numbers according to the order in which they are due (e.g., R1 for reading 1; R2, R3, etc.)

Note: The required book can be rented/purchased from the UTEP Bookstore. Or you can procure it from other sites you may be familiar with. It is important that you get the book as soon as possible, early in the semester. If for any reason you have problems getting the book on time, let me know promptly. I might be able to help.

Course Requirements and Due Dates

Unless indicated otherwise, submit your assignments via Blackboard. Detailed guidelines for assignments are available on Blackboard (Bb). During this course students can earn up to 500 points (or 100%), distributed as follows,

- Student-Led Discussions (65 points)
- In-Class Reading Reflections (50 points)
- Class Participation & Activities (60 points)
- CEL Project Mid-Term Report (50 points)
- Service-Learning Hours (must be registered via CUE) (100 points)
- Final Oral Presentation (75 points)
- CEL Report Draft (50 points)
- Final CEL Project (50 points)

Grading

A 90%-100% = 450 - 500 points

B 80%-89% = 400 - 445 points

C 70%-79% = 350 - 395 points

D 60%-69% = 300 - 345 points

F below 59% = 295 points or below

Note: Notice a 5-point gap in between each letter grade. It will be at your professor's discretion to move your grade up or not, based on your demonstrated commitment to the class.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Tuesday	Thursday	Due Assignment
Module I Week 1 Aug 29 & 31	Introduction to the Border Definitions, Classifications & Perspectives	Introductions, icebreaker & mini- lecture	Class Activity border definitions, classifications & perspectives	Class Activity, Thu <u>In class only</u>
Week 2 Sep 5 & 7	Border History Key Facts CCE Visit	CCE – Service Learning Registrations Mini lecture & reading discussion R1 (See Bb)	Mini lecture & reading discussion R2 (See Bb) Reading Reflection	Reading Reflection (practice) <u>In class only</u>
Module II Week 3 Sep 12 & 14	The Walls Within Introduction	Mini lecture & reading discussion R3 (See Bb)	Student-led discussion Reading Reflection 1	Reading Reflection 1 (Rs 1, 2 & 3) <u>In class only</u>
Week 4 Sep 19 & 21	Walls Within Borders, Migrants and Bureaucracies Space and Time	Mini lecture & reading discussion Community Partner Visit	Mini lecture & reading discussion Paper Trails (Introduction & Ch 1, pp. 1-52)	Class Activity, Thu <u>In class only</u>
Week 5 Sep 26 & 28	Walls Within Borders, Migrants and Bureaucracies Space and Time	Mini lecture & reading discussion Paper Trails (Chs. 2 & 3, pp. 53-102)	Student-led discussion Reading Reflection 2	Reading Reflection 2 (Paper Trails Introduction, Chs. 1, 2 & 3) Class Activity, Thu <u>In class only</u>
Week 6 Oct 3 & 5	Walls Within Borders, Migrants and Bureaucracies	Mini lecture & Reading discussion Guest: Hope Border Institute	Mini lecture & reading discussion Paper Trails (Chs. 4 & 5, pp. 109-152)	Class Activity, Thu <u>In class only</u>

Week	Topic	Tuesday	Thursday	Due Assignment
	Security and Visibility			
Week 7 Oct 10 & 12	Walls Within Borders, Migrants and Bureaucracies Resistance and Refusals	Mini lecture and class discussion Paper Trails (Ch 6, pp. 153-183)	Student-led discussion Paper Trails (Chs. 7 & 8, pp. 186-228) Reading Reflection 3	Reading Reflection 3 (Chs. 4- Conclusion) <u>In class only</u>
Module III Week 8 Oct 17 & 19	CEL Project Service Learning	No Class Meeting Complete Service- Learning Hours	No Class Meeting Complete Service- Learning Hours	Complete Service- Learning Hours. Submit all hours via the CUE system by Tue 10/31
Week 9 Oct 24 & 26	CEL Project Border Walls & Social Boundaries	CEL Project Design, development, and gathering information.	Mini lecture & reading discussion R4 (See Bb)	CEL and Reading Discussion
Week 10 Oct 31 & Nov 2	CEL Project Borders and the Body	Mini lecture & reading discussion R5 (See Bb)	Student-led discussion Reading Reflection 4	Reading Reflection 4 (Rs. 4 & 5) <u>In class only</u>
Week 11 Nov 7 & 9	Borders Within & CEL Integration	Mini lecture & reading discussion R6 (See Bb)	Mini lecture & reading discussion R7 (See Bb)	CEL Project Mid- Term Report Submit by Tuesday 11/23 , 11pm via Blackboard
Week 12 Nov 14 & 16	Borders Within	Final Project Workshop	Learning Reflection Final Project Workshop	Reading Reflection 5 (Rs 6 & 7) Tuesday <u>In class only</u>
Module IV Week 13 Nov 21 & 23	Course Re- cap Final Project	Student-led discussion Reading Reflection 5	Thanksgiving Holiday NO CLASS meeting.	Final Project Class Activity, Tue & Thu <u>In class only</u>

Week	Topic	Tuesday	Thursday	Due Assignment
Week 14 Nov 28 & 30	CEL Project	Complete your CEL Projects	Submit CEL project Draft	
Week 15 Dec 5 & 7		Final Oral Presentations Final Oral Presentations <u>In class only</u>		
Week 16 Sunday 12/10	Exams week NO CLASS MEETING Final CEL Report Submit via Blackboard by 11pm on 12/10			

Course Policies

Class Attendance. This course requires regular attendance and active participation.

Preparedness. You are expected to demonstrate that you have completed the required readings for each class meeting. While personal opinion is okay, full points toward the course grade can only be earned on the demonstration of having completed the assigned readings.

Timely Course Communication. If at any point you encounter difficulties or have concerns regarding your progress in the course, communicate with your instructor promptly, preferably, and whenever possible, prior to assignments' due dates. I try to respond to student emails as soon as possible but allow 24 hours during weekdays and 72 during weekends and public holidays. If you have questions about assignments, please give yourself sufficient time to receive an answer. If you send us a message an hour before an assignment is due, I will not be able to respond or help you!

Late Submission. Late submissions are accepted only up to three days after assignments' deadlines (counting weekends and public holidays). Each late day incurs a 10% deduction, up to a maximum of 30 %. After that, no late assignments can be accepted without a serious and documented justification.

Academic Integrity. Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

Plagiarism Detecting Software. Some of your course work and assessments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

Copyright Statement for Course Materials. All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

Dropping Class. I do not drop students from class. It is your responsibility to know important dates such as University drop dates, and officially withdraw. You can find the information at the [Registration and Records office](#).

Back Up Your 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. 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 accessible to students. 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.

Technology Support. This course uses two platforms, Blackboard for grades and assignment instructions and submissions, and Microsoft Teams for sharing research related and confidential files (e.g., data collected during the research process). Your professor will send you an invitation to the shared folder in the first week of the semester. For any technology related issues, please contact the Help Desk promptly. Phone: 915-747-4357 (HELP) Email: helpdesk@utep.edu. Or Make a Formal Request: servicedesk.utep.edu

Additional Support

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.

Library Services. Visit <http://libraryweb.utep.edu/services/contact.php>. You will find an excellent breakdown on how to correctly use the required APA 6th style at <http://libguides.utep.edu/apa>. For outside sources, another excellent site to visit is the Purdue Online Writing Lab, <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>.

Counseling. 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.

ADA. If you feel that you may have a disability requiring accommodations and/or modifications, contact CASS via email cass@utep.edu or phone (915) 747-5148. You also can visit the CASS website at <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/cass/>.

Disclaimer: Information is 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. Changes will be given due notice in class and via Bb announcement.