

# The Border | Syllabus

LABS 3301 CEL\* | CRN: CRN 15556

Fall | August 22 – December 1, 2022

In Person Course | Meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-2:50 pm, Quinn Hall 203

## Instructor

Dr. Silvia Torezani

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## T.A.

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## Office Location

1514 Hawthorne St  
In the CIBS house

## Office Hours

Tuesday 3-4:30 pm and  
by appointment

## Course Overview

This course takes you on a hands-on, practical research journey to explore critical issues of life in the border, especially, El Paso and Juarez. You will learn research skills while engaging in relevant readings on borders, immigration, bureaucracies, and socio-cultural and economic implications of people's everyday practices as well as government policies. You will also use your learning to contribute back to the community. The instructors (professor and T.A.) will provide the overarching research topic and instruments. This is a highly interactive course. You do not need any previous research skills to take this course.

At the end of this course, students would have:

- A nuanced understanding of key social issues in the border region,
- The ability to identify and engage in conducting relevant research on a specific social problem, with the guidance of the instructor.
- Skills to critically assess, explain, and apply relevant theories and scholarly work to analyze a specific social problem.
- Developed strong ethical implications for conducting research with human subjects and engaging with their community.
- The ability to communicate their research 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 (professor and T.A.)

\*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

All required readings are provided to you, as part of the course, including the book listed below. You will **not** need to purchase any text.

**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.

## 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,

- Critical Reading/Class Participation (75 points or 15%)
- Completion of IRB (online) (25 points or 5 %) due on **9/4**
- **Team** Mini Oral Presentation (10 points or 2%) due on **9/15**
- **Team** Newsletter Draft (20 points or 4%) due on **9/18**
- **Team** Newsletter Article (20 points or 4%) due on **9/25**
- Research Skills Self-Assessment Survey 1 (10 or 2%) due on **10/2**
- Research Preparation (30 points or 6%) due in class on **9/29 & 10/6**
- Data Collection (35 points or 7%) due **between weeks 7 & 8**
- Data Processing Report (30 points or 6%) due on **10/23**
- Data Analysis Report (50 points or 10%) due on **11/6**
- Research Skills Self-Assessment Survey 2 (10 or 2%) due on **11/10**
- Final Oral Presentation (50 points or 10%) due on **11/29 & 12/1**
- Final Research Paper (135 points or 27%) due on **12/6**

### 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 listed above. 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
Week 1 <b>Module I</b>	Research Intro	Introductions, Icebreaker & Mini lecture	Research Skills Exercise & Survey IRB	
Week 2	Critical Reading / Lit Review	Mini lecture & Critical reading discussion Form teams <b>R1 (See Bb)</b>	What's in a Lit Review? How to cite on-text and reference your source?	Submit your <b>IRB certificate of completion</b> by <b>Thursday 9/4</b> by midnight via Blackboard
Week 3	Critical Reading / Lit Review	Mini lecture & Critical reading discussion   Bring your research article <b>Paper Trails (Part 1: Introduction, Ch. 1)</b>	Critical Reading Exercise, Exploring Your Neighborhood: Draft your questions <b>Paper Trails (Chs. 2 &amp; 3)</b>	Work on your Team Newsletter project
Week 4	Team Newsletter Project	Mini lecture & Critical reading discussion   Bring your research article <b>R2 (see Bb)</b>	<b>Exploring Your Neighborhood</b> (prepare your newsletter draft) <b>Team mini-oral presentations</b> <b>Thursday 9/15</b>	Submit your <b>Submit Newsletter Draft (CEL)</b> <b>Sunday 9/18</b> by midnight via Blackboard
Week 5 <b>Module II</b>	Research Instruments   OR Guest Speakers (?)	Mini lecture & Critical reading discussion   <b>Paper Trails (Part 2: Chs. 4, 5 &amp; 6, pp. 103-178)</b>	<b>Know Your Research Instruments Activity</b> (In-class graded activity, part 1)	Submit your <b>Final (revised) Newsletter Article</b> by <b>Sunday 9/25</b> midnight via Blackboard

Week	Topic	Tuesday	Thursday	Due Assignment
Week 6	Research Instruments   OR Guest Speakers (?)	Mini lecture & Reading discussion   <b>Paper Trails</b> (Part 3: Chs. 7, 8 & Conclusion, pp. 179-247)	<b>Research Practice Activity</b> (In-class graded activity, part 2)	<b>Research Skills Self-Assessment Survey 1</b> by <b>Sunday 10/2</b> midnight via Blackboard
Week 7 <b>Module III</b>	Data Collection & Processing	Data Collection Preparation / Practice	Data Collection No class meeting	Data collection period starts this week
Week 8	Data Collection & Processing	Data Collection No class meeting	Data Processing YES, class meeting	
Week 9	Data Processing & Analysis	Data Collection No class meeting	Data Processing & Preliminary Analysis Prepare data report	Submit your <b>Data Processing Report</b> by <b>Sunday 10/23</b> by midnight via Blackboard
Week 10 <b>Module IV</b>	Data Analysis	Mini lecture & Critical reading discussion   <b>R3</b> (see Bb)	Data Coding & Relevant scholarly literature – Bring ONE scholarly source	Work on your integrated data analysis
Week 11	Data Analysis	Mini lecture & Reading discussion   <b>R4</b> (See Bb)	Coding and Organizing Analysis – Bring ONE more scholarly source	Submit your <b>Data Analysis Report</b> by Sunday via Blackboard <b>11/6</b>
Week 12	Data Analysis	Mini lecture & Reading discussion   <b>R5</b> (See Bb)	Data Analysis – Bring ONE more scholarly source Research Skills Self-Assessment Survey 2 <b>Thursday 11/10</b>	
Week 13 <b>Module V</b>	Research Writing	Writing Your Abstract, Introduction, and Methodology	Writing Your Literature Review   Bring TWO scholarly sources	Work on your final paper and final oral presentation

Week	Topic	Tuesday	Thursday	Due Assignment
Week 14	Research Writing	Writing   Writing your Literature Review, Conclusions and References List   Bring ONE scholarly source	NO CLASS MEETING Thanksgiving Holiday	Continue working on your final paper and final oral presentation
Week 15	Presentations	Team Presentations <b>Tuesday 11/29</b>	Team Presentations <b>Thursday 12/1</b>	Team Presentations Week
Week 16	NO CLASS   Exams week	Submit Your Final Research Paper <b>Tuesday 12/6</b> by midnight via Blackboard		Final Research Paper <b>Tuesday 12/6</b> by midnight via Blackboard

## Course Policies

**Class Attendance.** This course is highly interactive and requires your class attendance and active participation.

**Preparedness.** You are expected to demonstrate that you have completed all required readings and work 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.

**Course Communication.** The preferred means of communication for the course is Blackboard email. This allows to keep a clear record of emails within this specific course.

**Late Submission.** This course is designed to move through the modules progressively. Assignments build on each other. Therefore, it is very important that you plan ahead and submit everything on time. Late submissions are accepted only up to three days after their 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 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 to 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.

**Timely Communication.** We will be checking in on Blackboard every morning Monday-Friday. We will try to respond to your emails as soon as possible but allow 24 hours during weekdays and 72 during weekends. Allow at least between 48-72 hours to receive feedback from assignments. 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, we will not be able to respond or help you!

**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](mailto:helpdesk@utep.edu). Or Make a Formal Request: [servicedesk.utep.edu](http://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](mailto: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.

**COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT**

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org).