

# The Border | Syllabus

LABS 3301 CEL\* | CRN: CRN 24629

Spring | January 17 – May 4, 2023

In Person | Meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30-11:50 am, Hudspeth Hall 300

## Instructor

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## Office Location

1514 Hawthorne St  
In the CIBS house

## Office Hours

Wednesday 3-4:30 pm  
and by appointment

## Course Overview

This course explores critical issues of life in the U.S.-Mexico border, and a the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez region, in particular. Students will work through a variety of relevant readings on borders, immigration, bureaucracies, socio-cultural and economic issues from multiple perspectives. Students will also use their learning to interact with and contribute back to the community. 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 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

\*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,

- Class Participation (75 points)
- Reading Quizzes (50 points)
- Class Activities (50 points)
- CEL Project Mid-Term Report (75 points)
- Learning Reflection (25 points)
- Final Oral Presentation (75 points)
- Final CEL Project (150 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
<b>Module I</b> Week 1	Introduction to the Border Definitions & Classifications	Introductions, icebreaker & mini-lecture	Mini lecture Definitions & Classifications	Class Activity, Thu <u>In class only</u>
Week 2	Border History Key Facts	Mini lecture & reading discussion <b>R1</b> (See Bb)	Mini lecture & reading discussion. <b>R2</b> (See Bb)	<b>Reading Quiz</b> (practice, extra credit) <u>In class only</u>

Week	Topic	Tuesday	Thursday	Due Assignment
			<b>Reading Quiz</b>	
Week 3	Border History Key Facts	Mini lecture & reading discussion <b>R3</b> (See Bb)	Mini lecture and reading discussion <b>Reading Quiz 1</b>	<b>Reading Quiz 1</b> (Rs 1, 2 & 3) <u>In class only</u>
<b>Module II</b> Week 4	Borders, Migrants and Bureaucracies Space and Time	Mini lecture & reading discussion <b>Paper Trails</b> (Introduction, pp. 1- 29)	Mini lecture & reading discussion <b>Paper Trails</b> (Ch 1, pp. 31-52)	Class Activity, Thu <u>In class only</u>
Week 5	Borders, Migrants and Bureaucracies Space and Time	Mini lecture & reading discussion <b>Paper Trails</b> (Chs. 2 & 3, pp. 53-102)	Mini lecture & reading discussion <b>Paper Trails</b> (Review) <b>Reading Quiz 2</b>	<b>Reading Quiz 2</b> (Paper Trails Introduction, Chs. 1, 2 & 3) <u>In class only</u>
Week 6	Borders, Migrants and Bureaucracies Security and Visibility	Mini lecture & Reading discussion <b>Paper Trails</b> (Chs. 4 & 5, pp. 109-152)	Mini lecture & reading discussion <b>Paper Trails</b> (Ch 6, pp. 153-183)	Class Activity, Thu <u>In class only</u>
Week 7	Borders, Migrants and Bureaucracies Resistance and Refusals	Mini lecture and class discussion <b>Paper Trails</b> (Chs. 7 & 8, pp. 186-228)	Class discussion <b>Paper Trails</b> (Conclusion, pp. 229- 247) <b>Reading Quiz 3</b>	<b>Reading Quiz 3</b> (Chs. 4-Conclusion) <u>In class only</u>
<b>Module III</b> Week 8	CEL Project Border Walls & Social Boundaries	Workshop on CEL Project Mini lecture & reading discussion <b>R4</b> (See Bb)	CEL Project Design, development, and gathering information	Class Activity, Thu <u>In class only</u>
Week 9	<b>Spring Break – NO CLASS MEETINGS</b>			
Week 10	CEL Project Border Walls & Social Boundaries	Workshop on CEL Project Mini lecture & reading discussion <b>R5</b> (See Bb)	CEL Project Design, development, and gathering information	Class Activity, Thu <u>In class only</u>

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Due Assignment</b>
Week 11	CEL Project Border Walls & Social Boundaries	Workshop on CEL Project Mini lecture & reading discussion <b>R6</b> (See Bb)	CEL Project Design, development, and gathering information <b>Reading Quiz 4</b>	<b>Reading Quiz 4</b> (Rs. 4, 5 & 6) <u>In class only</u>
<b>Module IV</b> Week 12	Life in the Border: The Environment, Health, and Native Americans	Mini lecture & reading discussion <b>R7</b> (See Bb)	Mini lecture & reading discussion <b>R8</b> (See Bb)	<b>CEL Project Mid- Term Report</b> Submit by Sunday <b>4/9</b> , 11pm via Blackboard
Week 13	Reimagining the Border: Art	Mini lecture & reading discussion <b>R9</b> (See Bb)	Mini lecture & reading discussion <b>R10</b> (See Bb) <b>Reading Quiz 5</b>	<b>Reading Quiz 5</b> (Rs 7, 8, 9 & 10) <u>In class only</u>
<b>Module V</b> Week 14	Course Re- cap Final Project	<b>Learning Reflection</b> Final Project	Final Project	Learning Reflection, Tue Final Project Class Activity, Tue & Thu <u>In class only</u>
Week 15	Final Oral Presentations	Oral Presentations <b>Tuesday 4/15</b>	Oral Presentations <b>Thursday 4/27</b>	<b>Final Oral Presentations</b> <u>In class only</u>  <b>Final CEL Report</b> <b>Submit via</b> Blackboard by 11pm on Sunday 4/30
Week 16	Exams week   NO CLASS MEETING			

## 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 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](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).