

**The University of Texas at El Paso
Center for Inter-American and Border Studies
Syllabus**

COURSE INFORMATION

The Border

LABS 3301 CEL* | CRN: 24100

Term: Spring 2024

Duration: January 16 – May 2

Delivery Mode: In-person

Meeting Days and Times: Tuesdays and Thursday 10:30 – 11:50am

Location: Liberal Arts Building, Room 210

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Dr. Silvia Torezani

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Office Location: 1514 Hawthorne St. In the CIBS house

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COURSE DESCRIPTION





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.

*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.

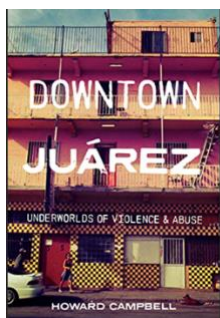
COURSE OBJECTIVES AND UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

Student Learning Objective	Outcome
Assess. Explain and apply relevant scholarship to analyze complex social problems relating to the border	 Critical Thinking Skills
Contribute their skills and knowledge to practical problems within their community	 Social Responsibility
Communicate in writing and orally key learnings	 Communication Skills
Work collaboratively to achieve common learning goals in relation to specific border issues.	 Teamwork Skills

REQUIRED MATERIALS

You will need to purchase one book for this class.



Campbell, Howard. (2021). Downtown Juárez: Underworlds of violence & abuse. Austin: Texas 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. The book is available in paperback, e-book and audio-book formats. Whichever format you use, it is important that you get the book as soon as possible, early in the semester.

ASSINGMENTS AND GRADING

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 attendance & activities (50 points)
- *Student-led reading discussions (10 x 10 = 100 points)
- *In-class written reading reflections (2 x 20 = 40 points)
- *Community engagement out-of-class activities (4x 20 =80 points)
- Mid-term CEL report & reflection (50 points)
- *Final oral presentation (50 points)
- CEL final report draft (30 points)
- Final CEL report (50 points)
- Final individual reflection (50 points)

Note: Course requirements marked * can only be completed during class, thus, require the student's physical presence.

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

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 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.

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.

AI prohibited. Use of AI technologies or automated tools, particularly generative AI such as [ChatGPT](#) or [DALL-E](#), is not allowed for assignments in this class. Each student is expected to use critical and creative thinking skills to complete tasks and not rely on computer-generated ideas. Any direct use of AI-generated materials submitted as your own work will be treated as plagiarism and reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR).

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.

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](#). If you do not act timely, you are at risk of receiving an “F” for the course.

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 Requirements. Class meetings are in-person. But this course uses Blackboard for storing grades, the course syllabus, some due readings that are not the required text, as well as the pdfs of delivered mini lectures and any other supporting materials relevant to the class. The course uses Blackboard Announcements for communicating important information about the course or opportunities that may arise for students. Ensure your UTEP e-mail account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

You will need to have access to a computer/laptop. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office. If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP’s Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about Microsoft Office 365 and follow the instructions.

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 Blackboard for grades, assignment instructions and submissions, as well as for course communication via Announcements and Messages. It is important that you regularly check Blackboard for course-related information. 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: helpdesk.utep.edu.

If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP Help Desk as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

Accommodations and Auxiliary Services. The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

COURSE RESOURCES: Where you can go for assistance. UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please refer to the QR code below for a listing of campus resources or visit https://www.utep.edu/advising/student_resources/student-success-resource-hub.html.



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.

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Tuesday	Thursday	Due Assignment
Week 1 Jan 16 & 18	Introductions, icebreaker & mini-lecture	Key contemporary border issues Students need to bring a short news article to critique during class.	Class Activity
Week 2 Jan 23 & 25	CCE – Service-Learning Registrations Mini lecture (See Bb)	Reading discussion. Downtown Juárez (Introduction, Chs. 1 & 2, pp. 1-47)	Reading discussion 1
Week 3 Jan 30 & Feb 1	Reading discussion Downtown Juárez (Chs. 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7, pp. 48-94)	Guided written reading reflection	Written reading reflection (practice)
Week 4 Feb 6 & 8	Mini lecture & discussion. Community Partner Visit	CEL Class activity	Class Activity CEL outside class activity between 2/6 and 2/23
Week 5 Feb 13 & 15	Reading discussion Downtown Juárez (Chs. 8, 9 & 10, pp. 95-116)	In-Class written reading reflection (Introduction – Ch 10)	Reading discussion 2 Written reading reflection 2
Week 6 Feb 20 & 22	Reading discussion Downtown Juárez (Chs. 11, 12 & 13, pp. 117-139)	Bring example in connection to reading. Preparing for outside of class activity	Reading discussion 3 Outside class activity, Sat 2/24

Week	Tuesday	Thursday	Due Assignment
Week 7 Feb 27 & 29	Outside class activity	No Class Meeting Class activity on Sat 3/2	Outside class activity on Tue 2/27 and/or Sat 3/2, depending on availability
Week 8 Mar 5 & 7	Reading discussion Downtown Juárez (Chs. 14, 15, 16, 17 & Conclusion, pp. 140-206)	No Class Meeting In lieu of outside class meetings attendance.	Reading discussion 4 Outside class activity Wed 3/6. Submit all service learning/CEL hours via the CUE system to receive points for your activities
Week 9 SPRING BREAK	No Class Meetings	No Class Meetings	
Week 10 Mar 19 & 21	In-class mid-term CEL report and reflection preparation	In-class mid-term CEL report and reflection preparation	Outside class activity on Sat 3/23 Submit Mid-Term CEL Report & Reflection by 3/24 11pm via Bb.
Week 11 Mar 26 & 28	Violence and Downtown Juárez class discussion and book review	In-class written reading reflection (Chs. 11-Conclusion)	Written reading reflection 2
Week 12 Apr 2 & 4	Reading discussion R1 (See Bb)	Preparing CEL final report draft	Reading discussion 5 (double points)
Week 13 Apr 9 & 11	Reading discussion R2 (See Bb)	Preparing CEL final report draft	CEL Final Report Draft , Sur 4/14 11pm via Bb.

Week	Tuesday	Thursday	Due Assignment
Week 14 Apr 16 & 18	Reading Discussion R3 (See Bb)	Preparing Final Oral Presentation	Reading discussion 6 (double points) Class Activity
Week 15 Apr 23 & 25	CCE Guided Service-Learning Reflection	Reading Discussion R4 (See Bb)	CCE Service-Learning Reflection Reading discussion 7 (double points)
Week 16 Apr 30 & May 2	Final Oral Presentations	Final Oral Presentations	Final Oral Presentations
Exams Week 5/6-10	CEL Final Written Report	-----	Submit CEL Final Report on Tue 5/7 11pm via Bb.