

**Oberlin College  
Department of History**

History 427: Borderlands  
Spring 2014  
Tuesday 1-2:50  
Severance 204

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Office Hours: **By appointment**

The American Southwest, roughly the US-Mexico border area from Texas to California, is a political, economic, and cultural crossroads. We will investigate interactions between Native Americans and Spanish colonists beginning in the sixteenth century, emerging US economic and political control during the nineteenth century, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, land dispossession, the Mexican Revolution, immigration, civil rights, and twentieth century demography. We will also discuss the borderlands as a literary and symbolic concept.

**Note: This course counts toward the GSFS major.**

Required Texts:

Miroslava Chávez-García, *Negotiating Conquest*  
Lilia Fernandez, *Brown in the Windy City*  
Kelly Lytle Hernández, *Migra!*  
Karl Jacoby, *Shadows at Dawn*  
Natalia Molina, *Fit to Be Citizens?*

Textbooks are available at the college bookstore and are also on reserve at Mudd Library. Essays are available on Blackboard

Grading:

Class Participation/Attendance	25
Book Review	20
Project Abstract	15
Final Paper	30
Final Presentation	10
Final Grade will be out of 100 points	

Class Participation:

Regular attendance and thoughtful, prepared, courteous participation in classroom discussion are required features of the class. Due to the small size of the class and because it meets only once a week, attendance and preparation are very important. Attendance (and absences) will be considered in determining your final grade.

Written Assignments:

The main written assignment for the course will be a 15-page research paper due at the end of the semester on some aspect of the history of the US-Mexico Borderlands. Students will complete additional shorter written assignments that can be incorporated into the final paper. Papers must have reasonable fonts, double-spacing, and 1 inch margins. Please attempt to stay within the assigned page limits. Late papers will be penalized 2 points for every 24 hour period the papers are late. Papers more than ten days late will not be accepted. Students must complete all written assignments in order to receive credit for the course.

### Presentations

Students will also be required to present periodic formal and informal in-class presentations during the semester, including a final, 10-minute presentation, with slides, drawn from the research project and the final paper. Students, in groups of 2 or 3, will also be responsible for presenting one 15-20 minute overview of major themes and topics during a particular period in Borderlands History to the class.

### Leading Class Discussion

Each student, as a member of a 2 or 3 person team, will also be responsible for leading class discussion on one of the assigned books. On weeks when students are not co-leading discussion, they will be required to send one question for class discussion to the entire class and instructor by noon of the day before the class (Monday).

### Honor Code

All work in this class is governed by the Honor Code of Oberlin College. The honor code is available at: <http://new.oberlin.edu/students/policies/2011-2012/11-Policies-Honor.pdf>. If you have questions about how the code applies to any assignment or work done for the class, please feel free to consult the instructor.

### Schedule and Reading Assignments:

**February 4** Introduction

**Choose one essay in Chicana/o History relevant to your project and circulate it to class by Friday, Feb. 7 at 5pm**

**February 11** Read at least 3 of the essays circulated to class and skim the others.

**Note: Please also bring a 300 word preliminary description of your research project to class.**

**February 18** Miroslava Chávez-García, *Negotiating Conquest*

**Class Presentation: Borderlands History 1848-1900**

**February 25** **Formal Five Minute Presentation on Paper #1, Book Review**

**Drafts of Paper #1, Book Review Due in Class**

**Paper 1 Due Thursday February 27, 2014 by 5pm**

**March 4** Karl Jacoby, *Shadows at Dawn*

**Class Presentation: Borderlands History 1900-1930**

**March 11** Alexandra Stern, "Buildings, Boundaries, and Blood"

Ernesto Chávez, "Ramon is not one of these"

**Class Presentation: Borderlands History 1930-1945**

**March 18** Natalia Molina, *Fit to Be Citizens?*

**Informal Five Minute Research Update Presentation**

**March 25** *Spring Break, no class.*

**April 1**      **Formal Five Minute Research Update Presentation**  
**Drafts of Paper #2, Project Abstract (300 words) Due in Class**  
**Paper 2 Due Thursday April 4, 2014 by 5pm**

**April 8**      Kelly Lytle Hernández, *Migra!*  
**Class Presentation: Borderlands History 1930-1970**

**April 15**     Eithne Luibhéid, “Looking Like a Lesbian”  
Rosalinda Fregoso, “Toward a Planetary Civil Society”  
**Class Presentation: Borderlands History 1970-2000**

**April 22**     Lilia Fernandez, *Brown in the Windy City*

**April 29**     **Research Presentations**

**May 6**        **Research Presentations**  
**Drafts of Final Paper Due in Class**

**Final Paper Due Saturday May 17, 2014, by 11am**