

**Oberlin College
Department of History**

History 427: Borderlands
Spring 2013
Tuesday 1-2:50
King 325

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Office Hours: Thur 11-12, **(and 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*

John McKiernan-González, *Fevered Measures*
Natalia Molina, *Fit to Be Citizens?*
Anthony Mora, *Border Dilemmas*
Monica Perales, *Smelertown*

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

Grading:

Class Participation/Attendance	15
Book Review	20
Project Abstract	15
Final Paper	40
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 Blackboard slides, drawn from the research project and the final paper.

Leading Class Discussion

Each student, as a member of a two-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 8am on the day of the class (Tuesday).

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 5 Introduction

February 12

Miroslava Chávez-García, *Negotiating Conquest*

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

February 19

Lilia Fernandez, *Brown in the Windy City*

Lecture

February 19, Lilia Fernandez, 4:30, Wilder 101

February 26

**Five Minute Presentation on Paper #1, Book Review
Drafts of Paper #1, Book Review Due in Class**

Paper 1 Due Thursday February 28, 2013 by noon

March 5

Anthony Mora, *Border Dilemmas*

March 12

No Class (Note: Class will meet Friday afternoon, March 15)

March 15

Karl Jacoby, *Shadows at Dawn*

Lecture

March 15, Karl Jacoby, 4:30, King 106

March 19

John McKiernan-González, *Fevered Measures*

March 26

Spring Break, no class.

April 2

**Five Minute Research Update Presentation
Drafts of Paper #2, Project Abstract Due in Class**

Paper 2 Due Thursday April 4, 2013 by noon

April 9

Natalia Molina, *Fit to Be Citizens?*

April 16

Monica Perales, *Smelertown*

April 23

Kelly Lytle Hernández, *Migra!*

April 3

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

May 7

Research Presentations

Final Paper Due Wednesday May 15, 2013, 11am