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:**
- Antonia Castañeda, ed., *Gender on the Borderlands*
- Jake Kosek, *Understories*
- Juliana Barr, *Peace Came in the Form of a Woman*
- Linda Heidenreich, "This Land was Mexican Once"
- Ken Gonzales-Day, *Lynching in the West*
- Andrew R. Graybill, *Policing the Great Plains*
- Natalia Molina, *Fit to Be Citizens?*
- Gabriela F. Arredondo, *Mexican Chicago*
- Gilbert Gonzalez, *Guest Workers or Colonized Labor?*
- Ernesto Chavez, "¡Mi Raza Primero!"

All textbooks are available for purchase at the college bookstore.

**Grading:**
- Class Participation/Attendance: 10
- Book Review #1: 25
- Book Review #2: 25
- Book Review #3: 25
- In-Class Presentation: 15
- 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, as is the careful reading of classmates’ book reviews. Attendance (and absences) will be considered in determining your final grade.

**Written Assignments:**
As an upper-level History seminar, this course seeks to provide students with an introduction of sorts to graduate work. Book reviews and peer evaluation are basic aspects of many academic disciplines, including History, and will play a central role in this course. Each student will be responsible for preparing three 5-page book reviews on books from the list of assigned reading (students will select the books to be reviewed on the first day of class). The book reviews should address the authors’ main points, methodological approaches, and historiographical concerns. Students will distribute copies of their reviews to the instructor and to their classmates (who will be expected to read the reviews and constructively comment on them during class discussion).

The reviews are due by noon on the Tuesday before the book is to be discussed in class and should be distributed electronically to the entire class and the instructor. In addition, one paper version of the essay should be placed outside the instructor’s office (King 141E) by noon Tuesday for students unable to access the papers electronically.
The papers should be legibly typed or word-processed, with reasonable fonts, double-spacing, and 1 inch margins (double-sided printing is encouraged). Please attempt to stay within the assigned page limits.

**Note:** With very few exceptions, late book reviews will not be accepted.

Students choosing to take the course for 4 credits, rather than 3, will be expected to write an additional 15-page historiographical paper analyzing one of required texts as well as 3 additional books on a related subject.

**In-Class Presentations:**
Students will also be required to make in-class presentations at the end of the semester. These presentations will be reviews of three recent articles (post-2000 publication date) covering similar topics in Borderlands history. The presentations should be 10 minutes in length and describe the main arguments of the three articles, compare their conclusions and methodological approaches, and place the articles within historiographical context. Please arrange a meeting with the instructor by April 1, 2009 to discuss your presentation.

**Honor Code**
All work in this class is governed by the Honor Code of Oberlin College. The honor code is available at: http://oncampus.oberlin.edu/courses/1/SL-dean/content/_187961_1/honorcode.pdf. If you have questions about how the honor 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

**February 11**   Theorizing *La Frontera*
- Antonia Castañeda, ed., *Gender on the Borderlands*

**February 18**   Spanish-Mexican Borderlands
- Juliana Barr, *Peace Came in the Form of a Woman*
  **Recommended Texts:** Ramón Gutiérrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away*; Ross Frank, *From Settler to Citizen*; James F. Brooks, *Captive and Cousins*

**February 25**   1848 and Beyond
- Linda Heidenreich, “This Land was Mexican Once”

**March 4**      California
- Ken Gonzales-Day, *Lynching in the West*
March 11  Texas (and Canada)
• Andrew R. Graybill, *Policing the Great Plains*

March 18  Arizona
• Eric V. Meeks, *Border Citizens*

March 25  Spring Break, no class.

April 1  Midwest
• Gabriela F. Arredondo, *Mexican Chicago*

April 1: Deadline to consult with instructor about In-Class Presentations

April 8  Racial Hierarchies
• Natalia Molina, *Fit to Be Citizens?*

April 15  Imported Colonialism
• Gilbert Gonzalez, *Guest Workers or Colonized Labor?*

April 22  New Mexico
• Jake Kosek, *Understories*

April 29  ¡Viva La Raza!
• Ernesto Chávez, ¡Mi Raza Primero!

May 6  Summary