

## **BORDERS, BOUNDARIES, AND FRONTIERS**

### **Course Overview**

This seminar is intended to examine various interdisciplinary theories pertaining to border-making. This will involve an investigation into the role of individuals, communities, the state, technology, and capitalism in the formation and transgression of borders and boundaries. How are boundaries created, crossed, and broken down between selves and others, people and objects, nations and regions, disciplines and genres, or even within virtual communities? In this current milieu, are borders disappearing, being re-articulated, or might these processes be occurring simultaneously? The course will look at different historical, philosophical, and methodological approaches to studying borders and frontiers; not simply those pertaining to national boundaries (on which the majority of border studies have been based so far).

### **Class Format**

Classes will consist of brief lectures, films, in-class writing, and critical discussions. In addition to a short assignment and a research paper (including first draft), you will be responsible for submitting weekly responses based on the week's readings. Grades will be based on the following requirements:

#### Weekly Responses (30%)

Each class member is required to write the following:

- 1) A short (maximum 1 page) response concerning the readings for the week's class.
- 2) At the end of your response, write down one or two questions that you have about the readings. These responses will be mandatory, but will not be formally graded. Your comments and questions will be used to guide our discussions for the week.

#### Attendance and class participation (10%)

As this class only meets once a week, all students must complete the readings ahead of time, and be prepared to discuss them in class.

#### Dialogue Assignment (20%)

This assignment will be designed to help you think through your readings in more detail. You will be asked to craft a dialogue you might have with two selected theorists (e.g. Haraway and Hegel discussing the term "self") if you ever were to meet in a café.

#### Research Paper: (40%)

Your final assignment will be a 10-15 page qualitative research paper based on the theoretical and methodological frameworks from this course as well as your own observations (and/or interviews) with an individual, community, institution, object, or cultural event. A first draft is required.

### **Readings**

#### **1. Border Backgrounds I: Anthropology**

Anzaldúa, Gloria. 1999 [1987]. *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books.

Barth, Fredrik (1969) *Ethnic Groups and Boundaries*. Boston: Little, Brown and Co.

Donnan, Hastings. 2001. "The Anthropology of Borders." In *Encyclopedia of Social Sciences* 1290-3.

Foucault, Michel. 1990. "The Right of Death and Power Over Life." In *History of Sexuality: Vol. I* New York: Vintage, pp. 133-160.

Turner, Victor. 1967. "Betwixt and Between: The Liminal Period in *Rites de Passage*" In *The Forest of Symbols*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp. 93-111.

Film: *My Winnipeg*, 2007 (Dir., Guy Maddin)

## 2. Border Backgrounds II: Geography

Baud, Michel and Van Schendel, Willem. 1997. "Toward a Comparative History of Borderlands" in *Journal of World History* Vol. 8, No. 2, pp. 211-242.

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1977. "Generative Schemes and Practical Logic: Invention Within Limits" In *Outline of a Theory of Practice* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 96-158.

Deleuze, Gilles, Felix Guattari, and Brian Massumi. 1987. "1837: Of the Refrain." In *A Thousand Plateaus*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 310-350.

de Certeau, Michel 1984. "Part III: Spatial Practices" In *The Practice of Everyday Life* Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 91-130.

Lefebvre, Henri. 1991. "Social Space." In *The Production of Space* Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 68-168.

## 3. Nations, States, Selves

Alimia, Sanaa. 2018. "Performing the Afghanistan–Pakistan Border Through Refugee ID Cards," *Geopolitics*, DOI: [10.1080/14650045.2018.1465046](https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2018.1465046)

Kearney, Michael. 1991. "Borders and Boundaries of State and Self at the End of Empire." *Journal of Historical Sociology* 4 (1): 52-74.

Mitchell, Timothy. 2006. "Society, Economy, and the State Effect." In Aradhana Sharma and Akhil Gupta, *The Anthropology of the State: A Reader* Malden, MA: Blackwell, pp. 169-186.

Sahlins, Peter. 1998. "State Formation and National Identity in the Catalan Borderlands During the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries." In *Border Identities: Nation and State at International Frontiers*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 31-61.

Wilson, Thomas W. and Hastings Donnan. 1998. "Nation, State, and Identity at International Borders." In *Border Identities: Nation and State at International Frontiers*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-30.

## 4. Travelers and Writers, Margins and Frontiers

Calvino, Italo. 1982. *The Uses of Literature*. Orlando: Harcourt, Brace, & Co.

Karma Chávez and Eithne Luibhéid, 2020. *Queer and Trans Migrations: Dynamics of Illegalization, Detention, and Deportation*

Lattimore, Owen. 1962 [1956]. "The Frontier in History" In *Studies in Frontier History: Collected Papers 1928-1958*. Paris: Mouton.

Levi-Strauss, Claude. 1973. *Tristes Tropiques*. New York: Penguin.

Shields, Rob. 1991. "Ritual Pleasures of a Seaside Resort" and "Niagara Falls" In *Places on the Margin: Alternative Geographies of Modernity* London: Routledge, pp. 73-126.

### 5. **The Power of Mapping**

Edney, Matthew. 1997. "The Ideologies and Practices of Mapping and Imperialism." In *Mapping An Empire: The Geographical Construction of British India* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 1-38.

Kelley, Robin D.G. 2022. "How the West was One: The African Diaspora and the Re-Mapping of US History," from *Rethinking American History in a Global Age*

Winichakul, Thongchai. 1994. "Mapping: A New Technology of Space" and "Geo-Body" In *Siam Mapped: Maps and the Formation of the Geo-Body in Siam*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, pp. 113-135.

### 6. **Gender and Ethnicity**

Castillo, Debra A. and María Socorro Tabuenca Córdoba. 2002. "Reading the Border: North and South" In *Border Women: Writing From La Frontera*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 1-32.

Costanza-Chock, Sasha. 2018. "Design Justice, A.I., and Escape from the Matrix of Domination." *Journal of Design and Science* <https://doi.org/10.21428/96c8d426>

Barlow, Tani E. 2006. "History and the Border." *Journal of Women's History* 18, (2) (summer).

Emil Keme, Adam Coon (translator 2018. "For Abiyala to Live, the Americas Must Die: Toward a Transhemispheric Indigeneity," *Native American and Indigenous Studies* 5:1

Cheater, Angela. 1998. "Transcending the State?: Gender and Borderline Constructions of Citizenship in Zimbabwe" In *Border Identities: Nation and State at International Frontiers*, edited by Wilson, Thomas W. and Donnan, Hastings., pp. 191-214. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Rushdie, Salman. 2003. "Step Across This Line." In *Step Across This Line: Collected Nonfiction 1992-2002*, pp. 347-381.

### 7. **Licitness and Illicitness**

Nordstrom, Carolyn. 2007. *Global Outlaws: Crime, Money, and Power in the Contemporary World*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Abraham, Itty, and Willem van Schendel. 2005. "The Making of Illicitness," In *Illicit Flows and Criminal Things: States, Borders, and the Other Side of Globalization* Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 1-37.

Mathews, Gordon, Dan Lin, & Yang Yang. 2014. "How to Evade States and Slip Past Borders: Lessons from Traders, Overstayers, and Asylum Seekers in Hong Kong and China." *City and Society*, 26 (2): 217-238.

Film: *Darwin's Nightmare*, 2004 (Dir., Hubert Sauper)

### 8. Security, Insecurity, and Surveillance

Ackleson, Jason. 2003. "Securing through Technology? 'Smart Borders' after September 11." *Knowledge, Technology & Policy* 16, (1): 56-74.

Andreas, Peter. 2000. *Border Games: Policing the US-Mexico Divide*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Löfgren, Orvar. 1999. Crossing Borders: The Nationalization of Anxiety. *Ethnologia Scandinavica* 29:1-24.

Sheller, Mimi 2010. "Air Mobilities on the U.S.-Caribbean Border: Open Skies and Closed Gates." *The Communication Review* 13(4): 269-288

Silvey, Rachel. 2007. "Unequal Borders: Indonesian Transnational Migrants at Immigration Control." *Geopolitics* 12, (2): 265-79.

### 9. Virtual Boundaries

Amoore, Louise. 2021. "The Deep Border" *Political Geography* (Online version)  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2021.102547>

Boellstorff, Tom. 2008. "Intimacy" and "Community" In *Coming of Age in Second Life*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 151-201.

Haraway, Donna. 1991. "A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century," in *Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*. New York: Routledge, pp.149-181.

Marx, Gary. 1997. "The Declining Significance of Traditional Borders (and the Appearance of New Borders) in an Age of High Technology." In *Intelligent Environments*, P. Drogue, ed., pp. 484-494. Elsevier Science.

Videos from *Body Worlds* Exhibit

Christina Honjo Harris

Film: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* 2004. (Dir., Michael Gondry)