

Geraldo Cadava
Office Hours: Th, 2:00-5:00, at the MCC
Harris Hall 210

History 492-0-20
T, 2:00-4:50, Harris Hall Seminar Room
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Comparative American Borderlands

This course will examine U.S.-Canadian, U.S.-Mexican, and Native American borderlands since the 16th century. Even though borderlands are frequently located at the peripheries of empires and nations, they nevertheless shape how centers of national power—cities, national capitols, etc—have defined their relation to issues such as territorial expansion, sovereignty, immigration, labor, community formation, difference, and race and ethnicity. As an explicitly comparative course, we will address themes including legal regimes in the borderlands; inter-American power relations; immigration, citizenship, human rights, and sovereignty; intercultural and racial mixture and conflict; nationalism, transnationalism, and internationalism; openings and closings of borders; and the multiple meanings and locations of borderlands. We will think about the broad and specific applicability of the concept of borderlands, making this course appropriate for graduate students not only in history, but also anthropology, sociology, performance studies, political science, African American studies, and other programs and departments.

Assignments

Attendance and Participation (25%): Beyond Northwestern's statement that "students are expected to attend all sessions of the courses for which they are registered," I expect you to do all of the reading and contribute to classroom discussion.

Presentation (25%): During the first week of the quarter, you will sign up in pairs to give a presentation at the beginning of one class session that will set the table for our discussion. The two presenters for a given week's class meeting will meet with me the day before their presentation—Monday—to discuss the themes and questions they plan to introduce.

Writing Assignments (50%):

- 1) Weekly Journal (10%): Each week, students will write a one-page journal entry that includes, for example, the main theses of the assigned readings; their situation within borderlands historiography; the other authors that each piece is in conversation with; the primary and secondary sources authors relied on; the location of archives used by authors; the languages authors worked in; and any other observations (i.e.—the who, what, when, where, and why of each assigned reading, as it were). You will submit hard copies of your journals on Tuesday, May 31st.
- 2) 700-word book reviews (5 x 8% each=40%): During the course of the quarter, students will write 5 scholarly book reviews modeled on the kinds of reviews you would read in the *Journal of American History*. Book reviews will focus on

assigned books—not articles—and will be due in class on the day we discuss the readings you choose to write about.

- 3) Alternative writing assignment (40%): Instead of 5 book reviews, you can choose to write a 10-page historiography essay comparing and contrasting 3 books not on our required readings list, or a 15-20-page research paper based on primary sources. As a model for the historiography essay, you can read examples from *Reviews in American History*, or *The New York Review of Books*. An alternative writing assignment, it seems to me, makes most sense if you're already engaged in a borderlands research project and hope to use this course to help you along your way. Alternative final papers will be due by Tuesday, June 7th.

Other Notes:

- 1) On Saturday, April 2nd, the Newberry Library's Seminar in Borderlands and Latino Studies will hold its last meeting of the year. It will be a mini-conference that runs from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. While attendance is not required, it would be a good opportunity to learn about new work in the field, participate in discussions about borderlands studies, and meet scholars working in the field. You can find more information here:
<http://www.newberry.org/scholl/borderlandscurrent.html>
- 2) During Week 9 of the quarter (date TBD), our class will join forces with John Alba Cutler's graduate seminar in the English Department on "Manifest Destinies." The purpose of this meeting will be to bring together folks at Northwestern working broadly on borderlands themes to discuss a common set of readings. We will discuss what overlaps and divergences have shaped our understanding of "borderlands" as an interdisciplinary concept.

Required Texts (in the order they appear on the syllabus)

- Benjamin Johnson and Andrew R. Graybill, *Bridging National Borders in North America: Transnational and Comparative Histories* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2010)
- David Weber, *Barbaros: Spaniards and Their Savages in the Age of Enlightenment* (Yale University Press, 2006)
- Pekka Hamalainen, *The Comanche Empire* (Yale University Press, 2008)
- Brian DeLay, *War of a Thousand Deserts: Indian Raids and the U.S.-Mexican War* (Yale Press, 2009)
- Anthony P. Mora, *Border Dilemmas: Racial and National Uncertainties in New Mexico, 1848-1912* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2011)
- Sheila McManus, *The Line Which Separates: Race, Gender, and the Making of the Alberta-Montana Borderlands* (University of Nebraska Press, 2005)

Kelly Lytle Hernandez, *Migra! A History of the U.S. Border Patrol* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010)

Jesse Hoffnung-Garskof, *A Tale of Two Cities: Santo Domingo and New York after 1950* (Princeton, 2010)

Wendy Brown, *Walled States, Waning Sovereignty* (Zone Books, 2010)

* Required books are available for purchase at Norris Center Bookstore, but you should feel free to order them online. I will post assigned articles on Blackboard.

Schedule

Week 1: March 29—What is Borderlands History?

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Johnson and Graybill, *Bridging National Borders in North America*
- 2) Samuel Truett, "Epics of a Greater America: Herbert Eugene Bolton's Quest for a Transnational American History," in Christopher Schmidt-Nowara and John Nieto-Phillips, eds., *Interpreting Spanish Colonialism: Empires, Nations, and Legends* (2005)
- 3) Jeremy Adelman and Stephen Aron, "From Borderlands to Borders: Empires, Nation-States, and the Peoples in Between in North American History," *American Historical Review* 104, no. 3 (June 1999): 814-841
- 4) Michael Baud and Willem Van Schendel, "Toward a Comparative History of Borderlands," *Journal of World History* 8, no. 2 (Fall 1997): 211-242

Optional Related Materials:

- i) Ramón Gutiérrez and Elliott Young, "Transnationalizing Borderlands History," *Western Historical Quarterly* 41 (Spring 2010): 27-53
- ii) Charles Maier, "Consigning the Twentieth Century to History: Alternative Narratives for the Modern Era," *American Historical Review* 105, no. 3 (June 2000): 807-31
- iii) Samuel Truett and Elliott Young, *Continental Crossroads: Remapping U.S.-Mexico Borderlands History* (2004)
- iv) David J. Weber, "Turner, the Boltonians, and the Borderlands," *The American Historical Review* Vol. 91, No. 1 (February 1986): 66-81

Week 2: April 5—Spanish American Borderlands

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Weber, *Barbaros*

- 2) David Igler, "Diseased Goods: Global Exchanges in the Eastern Pacific Basin, 1770-1850," *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 109, No. 3 (June 2004): 693-719
- 3) John Kizca, "Patterns in Early Spanish Overseas Exploration," *William and Mary Quarterly* Vol. 49, No. 2 (April 1992): 229-253

Optional Related Materials:

- i) Juliana Barr, *Peace Came in the Form of a Woman: Indians and Spaniards in the Texas Borderlands* (2007)
- ii) Alfred Crosby, *The Columbian Exchange: Biological and Cultural Consequences of 1492* (1972)
- iii) Elizabeth A.H. John, *Storms Brewed in Other Men's Worlds: The Confrontation of Indians, Spanish, and French in the Southwest, 1540-1795* (1996)
- iv) Cynthia Radding, *Wandering Peoples: Colonialism, Ethnic Spaces, and Ecological Frontiers in Northwestern Mexico, 1700-1850* (1997)
- v) Andrés Reséndez, *A Land So Strange: The Epic Journey of Cabeza de Vaca* (2009)
- vi) David Weber, *The Spanish Frontier in North America* (1992)

Week 3: April 12—Native and European Imperial Competitions

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Hamalainen, *The Comanche Empire*
- 2) Dan Flores, "Bison Ecology and Bison Diplomacy: The Southern Plains from 1800 to 1850," *Journal of American History* Vol. 78, No. 2 (September 1991): 465-485

Optional Related Materials:

- i) Colin Calloway, *New Worlds For All: Indians, Europeans, and the Remaking of Early America* (1997)
- ii) John Demos, *The Unredeemed Captive: A Family Story from Early America* (1994)
- iii) Matthew Dennis, *Cultivating a Landscape of Peace: Iroquois-European Encounters in Seventeenth-Century America* (1993)
- iv) Kathleen DuVal, *The Native Ground: Indians and Colonists in the Heart of the Continent* (2007)
- v) Jill Lepore, *In the Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity* (1997)
- vi) James Merrell, *The Indians' New World: Catawbas and Their Neighbors from European Contact Through the Era of Removal* (1989)
- vii) Daniel Richter, *Facing East from Indian Country: A Native History of Early America* (2003)
- viii) Alan Taylor, *The Divided Ground: Indians, Settlers, and the Northern Borderland of the American Revolution* (2007)

- ix) Daniel Usner, *Indians, Settlers, and Slaves in A Frontier Exchange Economy: The Lower Mississippi Valley Before 1783* (1992)
- x) Richard White, *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815* (1991)

Week 4: April 19—Native Americans and the Shifting Landscapes of Power

Assigned Readings:

- 1) DeLay, *War of a Thousand Deserts*
- 2) Pekka Hamalainen, “The Rise and Fall of Plains Indian Horse Cultures,” *Journal of American History* 90 (2003): 833-862

Optional Related Materials:

- i) Ned Blackhawk, *Violence Over the Land: Indians and Empires in the Early American West* (2007)
- ii) James F. Brooks, *Captives & Cousins: Slavery, Kinship, and Community in the Southwest Borderlands* (2001)
- iii) Brian DeLay, “Independent Indians and the U.S.-Mexican War,” *The American Historical Review* Vol. 112, No. 1 (February 2007): 35-68
- iv) Ramón Gutiérrez, *When Jesus Came, the Corn Mothers Went Away* (1991)
- v) Pekka Hamalainen, “The Western Comanche Trade Center: Rethinking the Plains Indian Trade System,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 29 (1998): 485-513
- vi) Karl Jacoby, *Shadows at Dawn: A Borderlands Massacre and the Violence of History* (2008)
- vii) Peter Silver, *Our Savage Neighbors: How Indian War Transformed Early America* (2007)

Week 5: April 27—Nation States along the U.S.-Mexican Border

Assigned Readings:

- 1) Mora, *Border Dilemmas*
- 2) Friedrich Katz, “The Transformation of the Northern Frontier into ‘the Border’,” in *The Secret War in Mexico* (1981)

Optional Related Materials:

- i) Ana Maria Alonso, *Thread of Blood: Colonialism, Revolution, and Gender on Mexico’s Northern Frontier* (1995)
- ii) Claude Bautillon, “El norte y la frontera,” in Bautillon, *Espacios mexicanos contemporaneos* (1997)
- iii) Katherine Benton-Cohen, *Borderline Americans: Racial Division and Labor War in the Arizona Borderlands* (2009)

- iv) Bernardo García Martínez, “El Espacio del (Des)encuentro,” in *Encuentro en la frontera: Mexicanos y Norteamericanos en un espacio común* (2001)
- v) Linda Gordon, *The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction* (2001)
- vi) Evelyn Hu-Dehart, “Immigrants to a Developing Society: The Chinese in Northern Mexico, 1875-1932,” *Journal of Arizona History* 21 (Autumn 1980): 275-312
- vii) Friedrich Katz, *The Life and Times of Pancho Villa* (1998)
- viii) Juan Mora-Torres, *The Making of the Mexican Border: The State, Capitalism, and Society in Nuevo León, 1848-1910* (2001)
- ix) Daniel Nugent, *Spent Cartridges of Revolution: An Anthropological History of Namiquipa, Chihuahua* (1993)
- x) David Piñera Ramírez, ed., *Visión histórica de la frontera norte de México* (1987)
- xi) Raúl Ramos, *Beyond the Alamo: Forging Mexican Ethnicity in San Antonio* (2009)
- xii) Andrés Reséndez, *Changing National Identities at the Frontier, Texas and New Mexico, 1800-1850* (2004)
- xiii) Samuel Truett, *Fugitive Landscapes: The Forgotten History of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* (2005)
- xiv) Elliott Young, *Catarino Garza’s Revolution on the Texas-Mexico Border* (2004)

Week 6: May 3—Nation States along the U.S.-Canadian Border

Assigned Readings:

- 1) McManus, *The Line Which Separates*
- 2) Kornel Chang, “Circulating Race and Empire: Transnational Labor Activism and the Politics of Anti-Asian Agitation in the Anglo-American Pacific World, 1880-1910,” *Journal of American History* Vol. 96, No. 3 (December 2009): 678-701

Optional Related Materials:

- i) Sterling Evans, ed., *The Borderlands of the American and Canadian Wests: Essays on the Regional History of the 49th Parallel* (2008)
- ii) John M. Findlay and Kenneth Coates, *Parallel Destinies: Canadian-American Relations West of the Rockies* (2002)
- iii) Andrea Geiger, “Negotiating the Boundaries of Race and Class: Meiji Diplomatic Responses to North American Categories of Exclusion,” *B.C. Studies*, no. 156/157 (Winter/Spring 2007/2008): 37-51
- iv) Andrea Geiger, “Writing Racial Barriers into Law: Upholding B.C.’s Denial of the Vote to its Japanese Canadian Citizens, *Homma v. Cunningham*, 1902,” in Gail Nomura and Louis Fiset, eds., *Nikkei in the Pacific Northwest: Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians in the Twentieth Century* (2005)
- v) Cole Harris, *Making Native Space: Colonialism, Resistance, and Reserves in British Columbia* (2003)
- vi) Beth LaDow, *The Medicine Line: Life and Death on a North American Borderland* (2000)

- vii) David McGrady, *Living With Strangers: The Nineteenth-Century Sioux and the Canadian-American Borderlands* (2006)
- viii) Bruno Ramirez, *Crossing the 49th Parallel: Migration from Canada to the United States* (2001)
- ix) Paul Sharp, *Whoop Up Country: The Canadian-American West, 1865-1885* (1955)
- x) Richard White and John M. Findlay, eds., *Power and Place in the North American West* (1999)

Week 7: May 10—The Rise of Border Enforcement

Assigned Readings:

- 1) Lytle Hernandez, *Migra!*
- 2) Erika Lee, “Enforcing the Borders: Chinese Exclusion Along the U.S. Borders with Canada and Mexico,” *Journal of American History* Vol. 89, No. 1 (June 2002): 54-86
- 3) Patrick Ettinger, “‘We Sometimes Wonder What They Will Spring On Us Next’: Immigrants and Border Enforcement in the American West, 1882-1930,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 37, no. 2 (Summer 2006): 159-81

Optional Related Materials:

- i) Alicia Schmidt Camacho, *Migrant Imaginaries: Latino Cultural Politics in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands* (2008)
- ii) Maria Cristina Garcia, *Seeking Refuge: Central American Migration to Mexico, the United States, and Canada* (2006)
- iii) Andrew Graybill, “Texas Rangers, Canadian Mounties, and the Policing of the Transnational Industrial Frontier, 1885-1910,” *Western Historical Quarterly* Vol. 35, No. 2 (Summer 2004): 167-191
- iv) Andrew Graybill, *Policing the Great Plains: Rangers, Mounties, and the North American Frontier* (2007)
- v) Benjamin Johnson, *Revolution in Texas: How a Forgotten Rebellion and Its Bloody Suppression Turned Mexicans Into Americans* (2005)
- vi) Erika Lee, *At America’s Gates: Chinese Immigration During the Exclusion Era* (2007)
- vii) Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America* (2005)
- viii) George Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945* (1993)
- ix) Alexandra Minna Stern, “Buildings, Boundaries, and Blood: Medicalization and Nation-Building on the U.S.-Mexico Border, 1910-1930,” *Hispanic American Historical Review* Vol. 79, No. 1 (Feb. 1999) 41-81
- x) Luis Alberto Urrea, *The Devil’s Highway: A True Story* (2005)

Week 8: May 17—Distant Borders

Assigned Readings:

- 1) Hoffnung-Garskof, *A Tale of Two Cities*
- 2) Lauren Derby, "Haitians, Magic, and Money: Raza and Society in the Haitian Dominican Borderlands, 1900-1937," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* Vol. 36, No. 3 (July 1994): 488-526

Optional Related Materials:

- i) Haroldo Dilla Alfonso and Sobeida de Jesús Cedano, "De problemas y oportunidades; intermediación urbana fronteriza en República Dominicana," *Revista Mexicana de Sociología* Vol. 67, No. 1 (Jan.-Mar. 2005): 99-126
- ii) John P. Augelli, "Nationalization of Dominican Borderlands," *Geographical Review* Vol. 70, No. 1 (January 1980): 19-35
- iii) Stuart Banner, *Possessing the Pacific: Land, Settlers, and Indigenous Peoples from Australia to Alaska* (2007)
- iv) Marcia Farr, *Rancheros in Chicagoacán: Language and Identity in a Transnational Community* (2006)
- v) Nina Glick-Schiller and Georges Eugene Furón, *Georges Woke Up Laughing: Long-Distance Nationalism and the Search for Home* (2001)
- vi) Sarah Griffith, "Border Crossings: Race, Class, and Smuggling in Pacific Coast Chinese Immigrant Society," *Western Historical Quarterly* Vol. 35, No. 4 (Winter 2004): 473-492
- vii) Noenoe Silva, *Aloha Betrayed: Native Hawaiian Resistance to American Colonialism* (2004)
- viii) Robert Courtney Smith, *Mexican New York: Transnational Lives of New Immigrants* (2005)
- ix) Lynn Stephen, *Transborder Lives: Indigenous Oaxacans in Mexico, California, and Oregon* (2007)
- x) *Sleep Dealer* (2008)
- xi) *Sin Nombre* (2009)

Week 9: Date TBD—The Proliferation of Borders, on Land and in Mind

Assigned Readings:

- 1) Brown, *Walled States, Waning Sovereignty*
- 2) Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera*, pp. 1-113

Optional Related Materials:

- i) José Manuel Valenzuela Arce, *Nuestros piensos: Culturas populares en la frontera México-Estados Unidos* (1998)

- ii) Rosa Linda Fregoso, *meXicana Encounters: The Making of Social Identities on the Borderlands* (2003)
- iii) Alexis McCrossen, ed., *Land of Necessity: Consumer Culture in the United States-Mexico Borderlands* (2009)
- iv) Paige Raibmon, *Authentic Indians: Episodes of Encounter from the Late-Nineteenth Century Northwest Coast* (2005)
- v) Claudia Sadowski-Smith, *Border Fictions: Globalization, Empire, and Writing at the Boundaries of the United States* (2008)
- vi) Ramón Saldivar, *The Borderlands of Culture: Américo Paredes and the Transnational Imaginary* (2006)
- vii) Bryce Traister, "Border Shopping: American Studies and the Anti-Nation," in *Globalization on the Line: Culture, Capital, and Citizenship at U.S. Borders* (2002)
- viii) Pablo Vila, *Crossing Borders, Reinforcing Borders: Social Categories, Metaphors and Narrative Identities on the U.S.-Mexico Frontier* (2000)
- ix) Pablo Vila, *Ethnography at the Border* (2003)