What is a border? Is it a line on the map? Is it the concrete wall, blocking your way? A security checkpoint, which can only be passed by those who meet certain criteria? Can it be found in the labyrinthine corridors of the customs office or the institutions of law and order? What about its social and cultural meanings and embodiments? Who makes and unmakes borders, - these intangible objects, material artifacts and social-legal constructs? And why? How can a border be both invisible and so painfully real in its effects on those who try to cross it?

This course examines borders from a broad anthropological perspective as historical, cultural, political and economic divisions of the contemporary global landscape. We will pay attention to regimes and policies of law and security establishing and protecting territory, discourses and
representations of marginality applied to territorial periphery, as well as to how and why objects, people, and ideas move across borders.

**REQUIRED BOOK:**

Stephen, Lynn  
2007  
Transborder Lives: Indigenous Oaxacans in Mexico, California, and Oregon.  
Duke University Press.

All remaining class readings can be downloaded from the Sakai course page.

**ASSIGNMENTS and GRADING:**

**Attendance.** Absence for reasons of illness, religious holiday or official university business is excused. Please inform the instructor as early as possible and provide appropriate documentation. You are responsible to contact a classmate to obtain notes on the materials covered. You are allowed one unexcused absence. After the second unexcused absence your final grade will be reduced a full letter. Students with four or more unexcused absences will fail.

**Participation (20%):** This is a discussion-based rather than lecture-driven class; therefore, careful preparation for each seminar and informed contribution to discussions is expected. Always bring the copy of that day’s readings to class (either printed or electronic version). Students who are exceptionally active participants in discussions by consistently demonstrating both familiarity with the assigned readings and original thoughts or questions that lead beyond the texts will be excused from taking the midterm exam.

**Seminar Presentation (20%):** Students will be responsible for leading one seminar discussion on the readings assigned for a particular week. Students should (1) provide a brief analysis of important points raised by the assigned readings; (2) situate the readings within broader ideas and concepts of the course; (3) frame a set of relevant questions for class discussion.

**Midterm Exam (20%):** This will be a take-home exam. Exam questions will be handed out in class on February 25 and the exam is due in class on March 11. The questions for the assignment will be explicitly tied to course readings and discussions. Students who are exceptionally active participants in discussions by consistently demonstrating both familiarity with the assigned readings and original thoughts or questions that lead beyond the texts will be excused from taking the midterm exam.

**Research Project (40%):** The final essay (10-12 pages), due by April 29, is a theoretical investigation of a research project of your choice. It should critically and creatively examine a particular border (or borders) in light of seminar themes. Specific topic should be elaborated in consultation with the instructor.

Graduate students should write a longer research paper (20-25 pages), which directly contributes towards the development of their thesis, dissertation chapter, conference paper or publication.

All students must hand in a 250-300-word abstract of their research essay on March 25, and a tentative bibliography on April 15.

Students will make 10-minute class presentations of their research projects on April 15 and April 22.
Papers: Both the midterm exam and the final research paper must:

- Use 12-point Times New Roman or similar font;
- Be double-spaced, with 1 inch margins;
- Include your last name and page number in the header/footer of each page;
- Cite all sources in Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Anthropological Association (AAA) format.

Please turn in a hard copy of all assignments and post them through Sakai.

Late Work and Extensions: Assignments for the midterm exam and the research paper will be handed out well in advance of their due date. If you know you will not be able to turn in the assignment on time, please notify the instructor as early as possible. Extensions are not granted lightly and must be arranged in advance. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class and will be marked down a grade for each day they are late (i.e., a B+ paper turned in a day late will receive a B).

ACADEMIC HONESTY:
All work submitted by a student for a grade must be completed by that student and free from unauthorized assistance or deliberate misrepresentations. The penalty for plagiarism or cheating is a grade of zero points on the assignment in question; in such cases an incident form will also be sent to the Office of the Dean of Students. If you have questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, please consult the UF Honor Code as well as the UF Policies on Academic Honesty, Student Rights and Responsibilities. These are available online at: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studenthandbook/studentrights.php#academichonestyguidelines

ADA STATEMENT:
Students with disabilities, who need reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and otherwise satisfy course criteria, are encouraged to meet with the instructor as early in the course as possible to identify and plan specific accommodations. Students will be asked to supply a letter from the Disability Resource Center to assist in planning accommodations.

GRADING SCALE:

<table>
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<th>Passing Grade</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C-</th>
<th>D+</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>D-</th>
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<td>Grade Points</td>
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<td>1.0</td>
<td>.67</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please consult UF grading policies at https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

HEALTH AND COUNSELING:
The University offers the following health and counseling services for students in the event personal problems threaten to hinder academic performance:
University Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575);
Student Mental Health (Student Health Care Center, 392-1171);
Sexual Assault Recovery Services (Student Health Care Center, 392-1161).
Please note: The Instructor may make minor adjustments to class readings or assignments during the course of the semester. Any and all modifications will be announced ahead of time.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Monday, January 7
COURSE AND CLASS INTRODUCTION

Monday, January 14
BORDERLANDS

Anzaldúa, Gloria

In-Class Documentary: Border (2007)

Monday, January 21
NO CLASS - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Monday, January 28
MAPPING BOUNDARIES

Cosgrove, Dennis

Corner, James

Biggs, Michael

Monday, February 4
TOWARDS A BORDER THEORY

Das, Veena, and Deborah Poole, eds.
2004  Anthropology in the Margins of the State: Oxford. (Excerpts)

Prescott, J. R. V.
1987  Political Frontiers and Boundaries. London: Boston. (Excerpts)

Hannerz, Ulf

Anderson, James, and Liam O'Dowd

Newman, David
In-Class Documentary: *Two Countries One Street (1955)*

**Monday, February 11**

**SOCIAL SPACE AND PLACE**

Lefebvre, Henri  

Certeau, Michel de  

In-Class Documentary: *The Border Between Us (2012)*

**Monday, February 18**

**FRONTIERS**

Turner, Frederick Jackson  

Wallerstein, Immanuel  

Smorkaloff, Pamela Maria  

Markoff, John, and Silvio R. Duncan Baretta  

**Monday, February 25**

**NATURAL AND MATERIAL RESOURCES**

Sahlins, Peter  

Ferry, Elizabeth E.  

Vásquez-León, Marcela  

# TAKE-HOME MIDTERM ASSIGNMENT HANDED OUT IN CLASS #

**Monday, March 4**

**NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK**

**Monday, March 11**

**MOBILITIES AND ENCLOSURES**
Cunningham, H., and J. Heyman

Kearney, Michael

Grimson, A.

Chalfin, Brenda

In-Class Documentary: The Wall - A World Divided (2010)

# MIDTERM ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS #

Monday, March 18

**BORDER IDENTITY**

Barth, Fredrik

Gupta, Akhil, and James Ferguson

Flynn, Donna K.

Lavie, Smadar

Monday, March 25

**BORDER IDENTITY (II)**

Stephen, Lynn

# RESEARCH PAPER ABSTRACT DUE IN CLASS #

Monday, April 1

**LEGALITY AND LEGITIMACY**

Van Schendel, Willem, and Itty Abraham

Van Schendel, Willem

Roitman, Janet

Galemba, Rebecca B.

Monday, April 8
CRIME AND SECURITY AT BORDERS

Ferradás, Carmen A.

McMurray, David A.

Gootenberg, Paul

Dorsey, Margaret E., and Miguel Diaz-Barriga

# RESEARCH PAPER BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE IN CLASS #

Monday, April 15
STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Monday, April 22
STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS