

ANTHROPOLOGY OF BORDERS
ANT4930 / ANG6930



Spring 2013

Monday 9-11 period (4:05-7:05pm)
Turlington B310

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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:

Passing Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	.67

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

1987 *Borderlands / La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. San Francisco: Spinsters/Aunt Lute. Chapters 1 & 7.

In-Class Documentary: *Border* (2007)

Monday, January 21

NO CLASS - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Monday, January 28

MAPPING BOUNDARIES

Cosgrove, Dennis

1999 Introduction. *In Mappings*. Reaktion Books. Pp. 1-23.

Corner, James

1999 The Agency of Mapping: Speculation, Critique and Invention. *In Mappings*. Reaktion Books. Pp. 213-252.

Biggs, Michael

1999 Putting the State on the Map: Cartography, Territory, and European State Formation. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 41(2):374-405.

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

1997 Borders. *International Social Science Journal* 49(4):537-548.

Anderson, James, and Liam O'Dowd

1999 Borders, Border Regions and Territoriality: Contradictory Meanings, Changing Significance. *Regional Studies* 33(7):593-604.

Newman, David

2006 Borders and Bordering: Towards an Interdisciplinary Dialogue. *European Journal of Social Theory* 9(2):171-186.

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

Monday, February 11

SOCIAL SPACE AND PLACE

Lefebvre, Henri

1992 [1974] Social Space. *In* The Production of Space. Oxford, OX, UK: Cambridge, Mass., USA. Pp. 68-168.

Certeau, Michel de

2001 [1984] Spatial Practices. *In* The Practice of Everyday Life. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 91-130.

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

Monday, February 18

FRONTIERS

Turner, Frederick Jackson

1962 [1893] The Significance of the Frontier in American History. *In* The Frontier in American History. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Pp. 13-42.

Wallerstein, Immanuel

1974 The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts for Comparative Analysis. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 16(4):387-415.

Smorkaloff, Pamela Maria

1994 Shifting Borders, Free Trade, and Frontier Narratives: US, Canada, and Mexico. *American Literary History* 6(1):88-102.

Markoff, John, and Silvio R. Duncan Baretta

2006 Civilization and Barbarism: Cattle Frontiers in Latin America. *In* States of Violence. F. Coronil, Skurski, Julie, ed.: University of Michigan Press. Pp. 33-82.

Monday, February 25

NATURAL AND MATERIAL RESOURCES

Sahlins, Peter

1990 Natural Frontiers Revisited: France's Boundaries since the Seventeenth Century. *The American Historical Review* 95(5):1423-1451.

Ferry, Elizabeth E.

2012 Minerals, Collecting, and Value across the US-Mexico Border. Indiana University Press. Chapters 3-5.

Vásquez-León, Marcela

1999 Neoliberalism, Environmentalism, and Scientific Knowledge: Redefining Use Rights in the Gulf of California Fisheries. *In* States and Illegal Practices. J. Heyman, ed: Pp. 233-260. Oxford: New York.

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
 2004 Introduction: Mobilities and Enclosures at Borders. *Identities-Global Studies in Culture and Power* 11(3):289-302.
- Kearney, Michael
 2004 The Classifying and Value-Filtering Missions of Borders. *Anthropological Theory* 4(2):131-156.
- Grimson, A.
 2002 Hygiene Wars on the Mercosur Border: Local and National Agency in Uruguaiiana (Brazil) and Paso de Los Libres (Argentina). *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* 9(2):151-172.
- Chalfin, Brenda
 2008 Sovereigns and Citizens in Close Encounter: Airport Anthropology and Customs Regimes in Neoliberal Ghana. *American Ethnologist* 35(4):519-538.

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

MIDTERM ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS

Monday, March 18

BORDER IDENTITY

- Barth, Fredrik
 1969 Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The Social Organization of Culture Difference. F. Barth, ed. Boston: Little, Brown and Company. Pp. 9-38.
- Gupta, Akhil, and James Ferguson
 1992 Beyond "Culture": Space, Identity, and the Politics of Difference. *Cultural Anthropology* 7(1):6-23.
- Flynn, Donna K.
 1997 "We Are the Border": Identity, Exchange, and the State along the Benin-Nigeria Border. *American Ethnologist* 24(2):311-330.
- Lavie, Smadar
 2011 Staying Put: Crossing the Israel-Palestine Border with Gloria Anzaldúa. *Anthropology and Humanism* 36(1):101-121.

Monday, March 25

BORDER IDENTITY (II)

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

RESEARCH PAPER ABSTRACT DUE IN CLASS

Monday, April 1

LEGALITY AND LEGITIMACY

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

2005 Spaces of Engagement: How Borderlands, Illegal Flows, and Territorial States Interlock. *In Illicit Flows and Criminal Things: States, Borders, and the Other Side of Globalization*. Indiana University Press. Pp. 38-68.

Roitman, Janet

2006 The Ethics of Illegality in the Chad Basin. *In Law and Disorder in the Postcolony*. J. Comaroff, John L. Comaroff, eds. Pp. 247-272: University of Chicago Press.

Galemba, Rebecca B.

2012 "Corn is Food, Not Contraband." *American Ethnologist* 39(4):716-734.

Monday, April 8

CRIME AND SECURITY AT BORDERS

Ferradás, Carmen A.

2004 Environment, Security, and Terrorism in the Trinational Frontier of the Southern Cone. *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power* 11(3):417-442.

McMurray, David A.

2003 Recognition of State Authority as a Cost of Involvement in Moroccan Border Crime. *In Crime's Power: Anthropologists and the Ethnography of Crime*. P.C. Parnell, Stephanie C. Kane, eds. Pp. 125-144: Palgrave Macmillan.

Gootenberg, Paul

2005 Talking Like a State: Drugs, Borders, and the Language of Control. *In Illicit Flows and Criminal Things: States, Borders, and the Other Side of Globalization*. W.v. Schendel, Abraham Itty, ed. Pp. 101-127. Indiana University Press.

Dorsey, Margaret E., and Miguel Diaz-Barriga

2010 Beyond Surveillance and Moonscapes: An Alternative Imaginary of the U.S.–Mexico Border Wall. *Visual Anthropology Review* 26(2):128-135.

RESEARCH PAPER BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE IN CLASS

Monday, April 15

STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Monday, April 22

STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS