An electronic version of this syllabus is available on the class B-SPACE page

This reading seminar will introduce students to important historical work on borderlands regions, defined as zones of interaction between independent polities. About half of the readings will explore the U.S.-Mexican borderlands (from the early colonial era to the present). The other half will concern borderlands in other world regions including western and central Europe, Russia, sub-Saharan Africa, South America, Southeast Asia, Australia, and China. Throughout we will be mindful of conceptual issues surrounding the study of borderlands -- definitions, processes, borderland typologies and comparative frameworks that might illuminate the study of places with multiple and contending political and legal traditions.

Most weeks we will discuss a monograph in common as well as two articles, half the class reading one and half the other. Students will lead discussion of the articles.

**Required Books:**

- Peter Silver, *Our Savage Neighbors: How Indian War Transformed Early America* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2007)

Requirements and Grading:

• Participation: The key requirement in this class is informed, engaged, and consistent participation in weekly discussion. **45%**
• Leading Discussion: 2-3 times over the course of the term you will be scheduled to lead a 15-20 minute class discussion of one of the Group Articles. This aspect of the class will account for **15%** of the total grade.
• Book Summaries: Students will be required to submit book summaries for 10 of the 13 assigned books – but note that summaries are **required for the books by Sahlins, Slezkine, and Ford**. These summaries are to be five sentences long (no more or less), and devoid of your own analysis or opinion – description only. **Summaries must be submitted over B-Space at least two hours prior to class**; the system won’t accept them later than that. Summaries are worth 1.5% each, for a total of **15%** of the class grade. Please read everyone else’s summaries prior to class and come prepared to discuss differences.
• Historiographic Paper: A 10-15 page final paper. This can either be a historiographic paper comparing work on two or more borderland regions, or a draft prospectus for a research project on some aspect of borderlands history. **25%**.

SCHEDULE

* If any of the links below fail, locate the piece yourself online.

Introduction:

8/30: **Frontiers, Borderlands, and the history of a Context**

GROUP A: Jeremy Adelman and Stephen Aron, “From Borderlands to


**Authority**


*Brooks, Captives & Cousins.*

9/13: *Whittaker, Frontiers of the Roman Empire*


**Conflict**


9/27: *Silver, Our Savage Neighbors*


10/4:  
*Charles Bowden, *Murder City*  
[http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/112.1/delay.html](http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/112.1/delay.html)  
[www.jewishculture.illinois.edu/events/conferences/holocaust/jacoby.pdf](http://www.jewishculture.illinois.edu/events/conferences/holocaust/jacoby.pdf)  

**Identity**  

10/11:  
*Sahlins, Boundaries*. *Professor Sahlins will join us for the discussion of his book.*  

10/18:  
*Reséndez, Changing National Identities.*  
[http://www.jstor.org/sici?sici=0018-2168%28199902%2979%3A1%3C41%3ABBABMA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-I](http://www.jstor.org/sici?sici=0018-2168%28199902%2979%3A1%3C41%3ABBABMA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-I)  

**Empire**  

10/25:  
*Slezkine, Arctic Mirrors*. *Professor Slezkine will join us for the discussion of his book.*  

11/1:  

11/8:  
*Ford, Settler Sovereignty*. *Professor Ford will join us for the discussion of her book.*  

**Crossings**  

11/15:  
*St. John, Line in the Sand.*  
*Group A*: Steven W. Hackel, “Dual Revolutions in the California Missions,” excerpted from *Children of Coyote, Missionaries of Saint Francis: Indian-Spanish Relations in Colonial California,*


11/22:  
*Tagliacozzo, Secret Trades, Porous Borders.  
*Group A: Lee Cassanelli, “The Opportunistic Economics of the Keyna-Somali Borderland in Historical Perspective,” in Dereje Feyissa and Markus Virgil Hoehne, eds., Borders and Borderlands as Resources in the Horn of Africa (James Currey, 2010) BSPACE  

11/29:  
*Johnson and Graybill, eds., Bridging National Borders in North America (skip St. John’s essay)  

12/6:  
2:00pm: Historiographic Papers due in my office (under the door if I’m not in)