History 5351 – Spring 2010  
Literature and Methods of Borderlands History  
Cheryl E. Martin

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Office Hours: MWF, 12:30-1:15; other times by appointment

Policy on Office Hours: In addition to in-person office hours, I have “virtual” office hours by email. Contact me by email with your questions and concerns, and I will reply as soon as I am able. Please use the regular email system, not Blackboard. Check your utep email account regularly, as I may send out announcements from time to time. Be sure to give me any alternate email addresses that you may prefer, so that I can include them on my mailing list.

Readings available for purchase at the university book store:


Schedule of Class Meetings and Assignments


Schedule of Class Meetings and Assignments, cont’d.

2/11  *The “Complex Mestizo Frontier”; The Borderlands and Colonial Mexico  **Read:** Martin, *Governance and Society*, entire.


2/25  The Historiographical Divide, part I: *One-page report on a chosen non-U.S.-Canadian historian who works on Borderlands-related themes; suggested authors to be distributed and assigned*  

[Friday, Feb. 26: Departmental Seminar, James Starling, “Matrimonio y el ‘Buen Morir’: Marriage and Death in Nineteenth-Century Paso del Norte.”]


3/11  Round Table: Race, Modernization, and the Aftermath of Conquest; readings TBA


[Friday, March 26: Departmental Seminar, *Drug War Zone: Frontline Dispatches from the Streets of El Paso and Juárez* (University of Texas Press, 2009), Howard B. Campbell.]

4/1  *Modernization and Revolution:  **Read:** Truett, *Fugitive Landscapes*, entire.


4/15  *Historical Memory in the Borderlands  **Read:** Estrada, *The Los Angeles Plaza*, entire.

[Friday, April 16: Departmental Seminar, *We Are an Indian Nation: A History of the Hualapai People* (University of Arizona Press, 2010), Jeffrey P. Shepherd, UTEP History Department]

4/22  Round Table: The Borderlands in the Twentieth Century  **Read:** remaining chapters in Lorey, *The U.S.- Mexican Border in the Twentieth Century*, and one other book: nominations to be made by students.

4/29  The Historiographical Divide, part 2: readings TBA

5/6  Your Borderlands Portfolio; *syllabus proposal, annotated bibliography, and plan for portfolio preparation due.*
Course Requirements and Computation of Grades

There are four components to this course, and each will count 25% of your grade:

(1) **Historiographical essay** of at least 4,000 words (about 15 pages). This will be due by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 13. There will be interim progress updates due at various points in the semester.

- **Choice of a general topic, by January 28:** Your topic can fall within your general area(s) of interest, but it also must expand your knowledge of Borderlands history and historiography. It must center on a general topic that has been discussed in the scholarly literature for at least 30-40 years—in other words, enough time for a historiographical progression to have developed. It must also be a topic that in some way straddles the present U.S.-Mexico boundary. You will ultimately be comparing the thinking of at least 6-8 individuals, at least one of whom must be Mexican or other non-U.S./Canadian. (Note: For purposes of this exercise, a ―Mexican or non-U.S.‖ author will be considered to be someone who works primarily within a Mexican or other non-U.S./Canadian intellectual context. The purpose here is to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the similarities and differences among the intellectual and historiographical traditions of different nations.)

- **Preliminary bibliography, due by class time, February 18:** Identify 4-5 significant works (books or major journal articles) that pertain to your topic. For each work, give full citation in bibliographical form. Also give a brief explanation of why this work is significant and the basis for your designation of this work as significant (for example, cited in another significant work, covered in a historiographical essay, etc.) At least one of the works you cite must be by a Mexican or other non-U.S./Canadian author.

- **Full annotated bibliography, due by class time, March 25:** Give full bibliographical citation and one-two sentence descriptions of the significance of each item.

- **Outline, preliminary sketch of historiographical paper, due by class time, April 8:** Describe the general points you will be making in this paper, the major unresolved questions, and the way that the ―historiographical divide‖ is (or is not) significant in the discussion of this topic.

(2) **Attendance and participation in class discussions:** This includes advance submission of questions and comments to me, via email, by 9:00 a.m. on the day of each class. To participate meaningfully in the class discussions, you will have to have carefully read and reflected on each day's readings. If you have to miss class, you must submit your questions and comments on the day’s readings in a paper of at least 2,000 words, preferably in advance of the class meeting, but (except under highly unusual circumstances) no later than one week after the class you have missed. This does not count as one of your four short papers. You are also expected to make a strong effort to attend the History Department Seminars, particularly those scheduled on February 26, March 8, and March 26.

(3) **Four (4) short papers:** For selected class sessions I will distribute an assignment question or questions on that day’s reading and anything relevant from earlier in the semester. (Dates for which a short paper option will be available are marked with an asterisk in the above schedule.) You must answer the question(s) in an essay of at least 1,500 words on 4 different occasions in the semester. Be sure that you actually answer the questions!!! You are free to do or not do any particular assignment, but you must do 4 during the course of the semester. You may, if you choose, do more than 4 of these assignments, in which case I will count your 4 best grades. These papers are due at the start of class on the date for which they are assigned; except under highly unusual circumstances late papers will not be accepted. If you cannot submit a paper on time, you will simply forfeit the opportunity to earn that particular credit.
(4) Other assignments:

- A one-page report on the work of a chosen non-U.S.-Canadian historian, together with a bibliography (due, 9:00 a.m., February 25).
- A one-page summary of your chosen book for the round table discussion on Mar. 11 (due by 9:00 a.m. on Mar. 11).
- A one-page summary of your chosen book for the round table discussion on April 22 (due, 9:00 a.m., April 22).
- A one-page summary of your chosen article or chapter for the discussion on April 29 (due, 9:00 a.m., April 29).
- A brief overview of a syllabus for teaching an undergraduate course in Borderlands history, for your portfolio. Due May 6. (Further guidelines will be given.)
- Plan for portfolio development in Borderlands History. Due May 6. (Further guidelines will be given.)
- Beginnings of annotated bibliography for your portfolio; for this you will use the annotated bibliography that you prepared on March 26, together with annotations for the other books and articles you have read during the course of the semester. Annotations will be one-two sentences per book or article, and grouped or organized in paragraphs. Due May 6.

Format for Written Assignments

***Please submit all papers electronically as Microsoft Word attachments to emails. (Do not use Blackboard or Zip Files or anything else this dinosaur can’t work with!) There is no need to submit hard copies. I will make comments and return the papers to you electronically as well. Please DO NOT put your name on the paper itself; just give your document a title. After I’ve read the papers and graded them, I will match them up with your emails.

Papers must be typed in 12 point font and double-spaced. Grammar, punctuation, and style do count! (So does content, by the way.) You may write in English or Spanish; if you write in Spanish you must observe all rules for the use of accent marks. For all matters of format, consult Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* or *The Chicago Manual of Style*. You may use either footnotes or endnotes, but not MLA-type citations.

You must use a footnote or endnote for all direct quotes, and for passages in which you are summarizing an author’s line of argument, even if you are using your own words.

Remember that in the first citation in a note, the author’s first name goes first and place and date of publication are given. For example:


Subsequent citations of the same work should use an abbreviated form. For example:


In a bibliography, the author’s last name goes first, and publisher’s name is included. Punctuation is different from that used in footnotes. A hanging indent is used.


See also the “Common Writing Problems” sheet for further suggestions. I will expect you to have checked your paper to eliminate any of these problems before you hand it in.