Borders have been analyzed as limits, bridges, and as places of encounter where processes of hybridity, identification, and differentiation occurs among different groups. On the other hand, border regions are also characterized as places where people, goods, and ideas circulate traversing the border in material and symbolic ways.

With its long history, the geopolitical border between Mexico and the US is an experienced border impacting in different ways the daily lives of people settling in or transiting the border region. This course examines ethnographies of the US-Mexican borderlands to understand how social, cultural, political and economic characteristics of the border region shapes daily life on both sides of the border. Topics discussed will include issues related with migration (forced and volunteer), violence, labor, religion, health, gender, among others.

Course assignments and requirements:

1. Attendance and class participation. Attendance is expected and a necessary component of success for this course. Further, greater in-class engagement and dialogue among all of us creates a richer classroom experience. Students will be expected to complete assigned readings and actively participate in discussions.

2. From week 4 to week 9, the students in groups of 4-5, will have 25 minutes to present a Border Region Current Event (social, cultural, political, economic), the sources of information can be the media or the ethnographical approach to a specific context. Each group will choose one current event on the Border Region that relates to the issues we have talked about it in class. The event should be something that has happened between 2015 to 2019. During the presentation the group have to discuss the context of the event, the meanings it might have for the participants
or other actors, including ethnographical data (this could be researched by the students' observations, ethnographic interviews), reflecting on how the readings and discussions in the class help you think about the issue. After the presentation the group should present some questions inviting the group to discuss for 15 minutes. The Professor must approve your topic in advance, no later than January 23rd.

3. Students will write a two-page critical response paper, analyzing a reading from the syllabus, explaining the main argument and the significance of the work for the class. It should also include the student’s critical reaction to the reading, meaning your assessment of its contributions and limitations. This will be due January 27th by 8pm in Professor’s email: oolivashernandez@ucsd.edu

4. There will be a take-home midterm (due to February 19th) and a final essay (due to March 20th). Both will be essays.

5. The grades will be calculated as follows:
   Attendance: 20%
   Presentations at class: 10%
   Critical Response Paper: 10%
   Midterm: 25%
   Final: 35%

Extra credit. The students will be informed during the course about opportunities for extra credits, which could include: attending a conference or participating in an ethnographic practice related to current events on the Border.

Readings: All readings will be available as pdfs on the class TED site.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please read carefully: Students with Documented Disabilities. Students who have a disability (documented by OSD), which may necessitate an academic accommodation or the use of auxiliary aids and services in class should contact the professor as soon as possible; timely notice is needed to arrange for appropriate accommodations.
Class/Readings Schedule (Subject to Change):

Week 1

January 7

Introduction

Geopolitical Border and its effects on National construction

January 9


January 11

Anthropology of the Border


Week 2

January 14

The Border as a Limit, Symbol and Encounter


January 16

Transnationalism and Mobility.


January 18

The U.S.-Mexico Transborder region


**Week 3**

January 21

HOLIDAY

January 23

*Border Policies*


January 25

*Migration in Transit and Deportation*


Week 4

January 28

Film. Who is Dayani Cristal?

January 30

Film. Who is Dayani Cristal?

February 1

Group 1. Current Event

Week 5

February 4

Daily life in the border region


February 6

Group 2. Current Event

February 8

Week 6

February 11


February 13

Group 3. Current Event

February 15


Week 7

February 18 HOLIDAY
February 20

*Border Identities*


February 22


Week 8

February 25


February 27

*Group 4. Current Event*

March 1

*Gender, Labor and Religion in the Border Region.*


Week 9
March 4


March 6

**Group 5. Current Event**

March 8


**Week 10**

March 11


March 13


March 15

**Final Papers discussion**
Complementary Bibliography.


Nuñez, Guillermina and Klamminger Georg. Centering the margins: The transformation of Community in Colonias on the U.S.-Mexico Border. READ ON LINE. UCSD LIBRARY


Staudt Kathleen and Robles Rosalba. Surviving Domestic Violence in The Paso del Norte Border Region. READ ON LINE. UCSD LIBRARY

Monárrez Fragoso, Julia and Bejarano Cynthia. The Disarticulation of Justice: Precarious life and Cross-Border femicides in The Paso del Norte Region. READ ON LINE. UCSD LIBRARY

