

Curtis Marez  
ETHN 260  
Th 10:00 AM-12:50 PM  
SSB 103  
Office Hours: Th 1-2:30 PM

## **Transnationalism and Borderlands**

In this course we will focus on the historical, material, and cultural significance of different borderlands. We begin with key concepts in borderland studies across different interdisciplinary formations before turning to individual and comparative case studies. While we will consider borders and borderlands from multiple disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives, we will focus in particular on relationships between culture and power and especially on film and other forms of visual culture.

### **Readings**

Most reading for the course are in pdf form and are stored in a dropbox folder for the class. Here is a link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/194lwwtr22zckyp/AAAJ70NqJAZLi4K3TLEd7u9Ea?dl=0>

Dropbox readings are designated on the syllabus by "DB." Readings not so marked will be for sale in the UCSD bookstore.

### **Assignments**

-- A final paper, 12-15 pages, on a topic of your choosing, devised in consultation with the instructor. The paper is **due on December 10** and can be emailed as an attachment.

--A joint, in-class presentation, no longer than 15 minutes. Early in the course pick a partner, decide on a day to present, and talk about how to divide up the presentation. Presentations should do two things. First, they can make connections between assigned readings and additional readings suggested on the syllabus. Second, presentations should connect course readings to the analysis of a particular cultural text such as a film, music, literature, or art. I can make suggestions of relevant cultural texts but presenters are free to choose their own. On the day of the presentation, presenters should distribute a 1-2 page document summarizing the main points.

--Seven Pinterest "pins" with descriptions. Starting on 10/6, students should post something relevant to the day's assignments before each class on a board I've organized for the class. You should shortly receive an email invitation to the board. In addition to pinning a link, use the description box to explain the significance of the pin.

## 9/22 Introduction

## 9/29 Keywords

Selections, *Keywords for American Cultural Studies* and *Keywords for Environmental Studies* and *Keywords for Asian American Studies* (DB).

## 10/6 Borders and Algerian Revolution: *The Battle of Algiers*

Ella Shohat and Robert Stam, "Third Worldist Film," *Unthinking Eurocentrism: Multiculturalism and the Media* (DB)

Frantz Fanon, "Algeria Unveiled," *Studies in a Dying Colonialism* (DB)

Edward Said, "The Dictatorship of Truth: An Interview with Gillo Pontecorvo," *Cineaste* 25.2 (2000) (DB)

Before class, please watch *The Battle of Algiers* (Pontecorvo, 1966)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOKNUmpXWe0>

Presentation text: Shohat and Stam, *Unthinking Eurocentrism: Multiculturalism and the Media*; Frantz Fanon: *Black Skin, White Mask* (Isaac Julien, 1996)

## 10/13 Post Revolutionary Algeria and the Diaspora

David Prochaska, "That was Then, This is Now: *The Battle of Algiers* and After," *Radical History Review* 85 (Winter 2003).

Fatima El Tayeb, "Secular Submissions: Muslim Europeans, Female Bodies, and Performative Politics," *European Others: Queering Ethnicity in Postnational Europe*

Nicholas Mirzoeff, "'We Are All Children of Algeria': Visuality and Countervisuality 1954-2011," <http://scalar.usc.edu/nehvectors/mirzoeff/index>

Presentation text: Sohail Daulatzai, *Fifty Years of The Battle of Algiers: Past as Prologue*

## 10/20 Borders and the Mexican Revolution

Selections, Ana Maria Alonso, *Thread of Blood: Colonialism, Revolution and Gender on Mexico's Northern Frontier* (DB)

Claire F. Fox, "U.S. Mexico Border Conflict in U.S. Popular Culture," *The Fence and the River: Culture and Politics at the U.S.-Mexico Border* (DB)

Selections, Gerald Horne, *Black and Brown: African Americans and the Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920* (DB)

Presentation texts: Americo Paredes, *With His Pistol in His Hand: A Border Ballad and its Hero*; and/or Rosa Linda Fregoso, *MeXicana Encounters*

### 10/27 Juárez

Selections, David Dorado Romo, *Ringside Seat to a Revolution: An Underground History of El Paso and Juárez, 1893-1923* (DB)

Selections, Rosa-Linda Fregoso (ed), *Terrorizing Women: Feminicide in the Americas*

In-class screening: *Senorita Extraviada* (Lourdes Portillo, 2001).

Presentation text: Rosa Linda Fregoso (ed.), *The Devil Never Sleeps and Other Films by Lourdes Portillo*; and/or *The Devil Never Sleeps* (Portillo, 19994); and/or Paul Vanderwood, *Satan's Playground: Mobsters and Movie Stars at Americas Greatest Gaming Resort* (Tijuana)

### 11/3 Mexico/Palestine

David Lloyd and Laura Pulido, "Forum: Chicano-Palestinian Connections," *American Quarterly* 62.4 (December 2010) (DB)

Rosaura Sanchez and Beatrice Pita, "Rethinking Settler Colonialism," *American Quarterly* 66.4 (December 2014) (DB)

Curtis Marez, "Occupation Spin," *Social Text Periscope* (June 2014), [http://socialtextjournal.org/periscope\\_article/occupation-spin/](http://socialtextjournal.org/periscope_article/occupation-spin/)

Presentation text: *Sleep Dealer* (Alex Rivera, 2008); Curtis Marez, *Farmworker Futurism: Speculative Technologies of Resistance*

### 11/10 Palestine

Selections, Saree Makdisi, *Palestine Inside Out: An Everyday Occupation*

Presentation text: Edward Said, *The Question of Palestine*

11/17 No Class—American Studies Association Convention.

11/24 Thanksgiving Holiday

### 12/1 Palestine

Sunaina Maira, "The Ghosts that Haunt US: USACBI and the Settler University,"  
*Against Apartheid: The Case for Boycotting Israeli Universities*

Selections, Keith Feldman, *A Shadow Over Palestine: The Imperial Life of Race in America*

Presentation text: Alex Lubin, *Geographies of Liberation: The Making of an Afro-Arab Political Imaginary*

Final meeting/party—TBA.

**12/10 FINAL PAPER DUE**