**History 608: Borderlands Colloquium**

**Fall 2017**

**375 McKenzie Hall**

**Monday, 3:00-5:50**

**Professor Lawrence Culver**

**mculver@uoregon.edu**

**Office: McKenzie 357**

**Office Hours:**

**Monday: 1:00 to 2:00**

**Wednesday and Friday: 2:00 to 3:00**

This graduate colloquium will examine the North American Southwest and U.S.-Mexico Borderlands from the pre-contact era to the twentieth century, and the movement of the border and border peoples during the Spanish, Mexican, and U.S. eras. This seminar will also consider borderlands, immigration, and migration as theoretical and methodological constructs that can be used to more broadly analyze history. Therefore, readings will also examine other borderlands in the history of North America, from the Midwest, to the Pacific Northwest, and beyond, including the Pacific World. This course is designed as a broad reading seminar, informing students about the history of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands region, other borderlands, the evolution of borderlands historiography, and both landmark and current scholarship in the field.

**Books available for purchase:**

Stephen Aron, *American Confluence: The Missouri Frontier from Borderland to Border State*. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2009. Paperback)

ISBN: 978-0253200112

Kornel Chang, *Pacific Connections: The Making of the U.S.-Canadian Borderlands.* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2012. Paperback.)

ISBN: 9780520271692

David A. Chang, *The World and All the Things upon It: Native Hawaiian Geographies of Exploration*. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2016. Paperback.)

ISBN 978-0-8166-9942-1

William deBuys, *Enchantment and Exploitation: The Life and Hard Times of a New*

*Mexico Mountain Range.* Revised and Expanded Edition. (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2015. Paperback.)

ISBN: 978-0826353429

David Igler, *The Great Ocean: Pacific Worlds from Captain Cook to the Gold Rush*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017. Paperback.)

ISBN: 9780190498757

George J. Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican-American: Ethnicity, Culture and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945*. Reprint Edition. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995. Paperback.)

ISBN: 978-0195096484

Rachel St. John, *Line in the Sand: A History of the Western U.S.-Mexico Border.*

(Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012. Paperback.)

ISBN: 978-0691156132

Lissa Wadewitz, *The Nature of Borders: Salmon, Boundaries, and Bandits on the Salish Sea.* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2012. Paperback.)

ISBN: 978-0295991825

David J. Weber, *The Spanish Frontier in North America: The Brief Edition*. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009. Paperback.)

ISBN: 978-0300140682

Richard White, *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815*. Twentieth Anniversary Edition. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010. Paperback.)

ISBN: 978-0521183444

**Assignments and Grading:**

**Leading Class Discussion (15%)**

Each of you will be responsible for facilitating class discussion at least once during the course of the quarter. That responsibility will involve placing the book and any other weekly readings in their historiographical context, elucidating the author’s thesis and major points, analyzing the author’s use of sources, and assessing what you see as the book’s contribution to the literature, as well as its limitations.

**Class Participation (25%)**

This is a graduate seminar, and its quality and effectiveness will be determined by the contribution each participant makes to the class. Regular attendance and informed participation in our weekly conversations are essential for a good participation grade.

**Three Book/Weekly Readings Review Papers (10% Each – 30% Total)**

Each of these 3 to 5-page papers should be a substantive review of a book assigned for this seminar (and any other class readings assigned for that week). One of these review papers will be based on the readings for the week (or weeks) you lead class discussion. You can choose the other two books and any associated weekly readings you wish to review. Your book review should not simply summarize the book. Instead, it should state the author’s thesis and major points, examine their use of sources, and offer your critique of the book’s strengths and weaknesses. Book reviews are due in class the week following our discussion of that book.

**Final Course Project (30%)**

The final project can take various forms based upon your needs and research focus, as long as it has a borderlands component. In any case, it must represent a substantial amount of research and writing.

**Possible options include:**

**Comparative Historiographical Review Essay**

For this 15 to 18-page paper, you will select approximately five books (a series of scholarly journal articles can be substituted for one of the books) which are connected thematically, addressing a specific, discrete, topic within borderlands history of interest to you. Two of the books can be titles we have discussed in class. You should discuss possible books or articles with me well in advance of the final paper’s due date. As in your book review papers, your paper should summarize and critique each book, but should analyze them comparatively, considering how each approaches the subject or theme and contributes to your understanding of it.

**Historiographical Literature Review Essay**

For this 15 to 18-page paper, you will select a sizable number of books, perhaps 10 to 15, separately or in combination with a number of journal articles, which collectively examine a broad topic within borderlands history. Up to three of the books can be titles we have discussed in class. Your essay should examine each book or article within a broader context, mapping out relationships between them by exploring trends or debates in the subject area they examine, or how historical analysis of the subject has changed over time.

**Dissertation Chapter or Other Relevant Project**

If your research topic has a borderlands history component, you can write a new chapter or other research paper based on primary and secondary research as the final assignment in this seminar.

Each student will do a presentation on their individual projects at our final class meeting on November 27th.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1: September 25**

**Introduction to Course**

**Week Two: October 2**

**Introduction to Borderlands History and Historiography**

**Week Three: October 9**

**The Course of Borderlands History and Historiography, and the Course of Spanish Empire in North America**

Herbert Bolton, “The Epic of Greater America” <https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/aha-history-and-archives/presidential-addresses/herbert-e-bolton>

Jeremy Adelman and Stephen Aron, “From Borderlands to Borders: Empires, Nation-States, and the Peoples in Between in North American History,” *American Historical Review* 104 (June 1999), 814-841.

Samuel Truett, “Epics of a Greater America: Herbert Eugene Bolton’s Quest for a Transnational American History,” in Christopher Schmitt-Nowara and John Nieto-Phillips, eds., *Interpreting Spanish Colonialism: Empires, Nations, and Legends* (2005).

Rebecca Horn and Eric Hinderaker, “Territorial Crossings: Histories and Historiographies of the Early Americas,”*William and Mary Quarterly* 67 (July 2010), 395-432.

David Weber, *The Spanish Frontier*

**Week Four: October 16**

**Environment and Three Cultures in New Mexico**

William deBuys, *Enchantment and Exploitation: The Life and Hard Times of a New*

*Mexico Mountain Range*

**Week Five: October 23**

**From Borderland to Bordered Land**

Rachel St. John, *Line in the Sand: A History of the Western U.S.-Mexico Border*

**Week Six: October 30**

**Immigration, Assimilation, and Identity**

George J. Sánchez, *Becoming Mexican-American: Ethnicity, Culture and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945*

**Week Seven: November 6**

**Lakes, Rivers, and the Borderlands of Middle America**

Stephen Aron, *American Confluence: The Missouri Frontier from Borderland to Border State*

or

Richard White, *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815*

**Week Eight: November 13**

**The Pacific Northwest Borderlands**

Kornel Chang, *Pacific Connections: The Making of the U.S.-Canadian Borderlands*

or

Lissa Wadewitz, *The Nature of Borders: Salmon, Boundaries, and Bandits on the Salish Sea*

**Week Nine: November 20**

**Pacific Worlds**

David A. Chang, *The World and All the Things upon It: Native Hawaiian Geographies of Exploration*

or

David Igler, *The Great Ocean: Pacific Worlds from Captain Cook to the Gold Rush*

**Week Ten: November 27**

**Surveying the Terrain and Summing Up; Student Presentations on Final Projects**

**Final papers due in my box before 5:00 PM on December 8th.**