INSTRUCTOR  
Dr. Andrew J. Torget  
Office: Wooten Hall 258  
Office Hours: TR, 11am-12pm, and by appointment  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION  
This course will explore the historiography of the nineteenth-century U.S.-Mexico borderlands, with particular emphasis on how the idea of “borderlands” has been used as a lens into the development of North America. The readings will range widely as we discuss how the often-violent overlap of both the United States and Mexico has been written, represented, and misrepresented over the years.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS  
The heart of the course will be weekly class discussions and writing historiographical essays, so the bulk of your grade will come from your contributions to class discussions and your in-depth written analysis of three of the books. Students will also be required to write a one-page response for each book.

Response Papers:  
Before each class, students will be required to email me a one-page response to that day’s readings. These responses should be simply a quick summation of the author’s arguments, and your initial response. These are informal, short, and not graded for content. They are, instead, an opportunity for you to commit your initial thoughts to paper, and a means for me to gauge the class’s response to that day’s readings. These will be due via email at least two hours before class begins (I need time to read them!).

Historiographical Essays:  
Students will also choose three books to analyze in depth, writing 5-7 page historiographical essays on each. These are not summations of the history covered by the book, nor simply overviews of the author’s arguments. Rather, they are to be your own focused analysis and evaluation of the book’s framework, argument, use of evidence, and place within the larger historiography. These will be due in class the day we discuss the book, and those who write will be expected to take the lead in class discussions that day.

Grade Breakdown:  
- In-Class Discussion: 45 percent  
- Historiographical Essays: 45 percent  
- Response Papers: 10 percent
COURSE SCHEDULE:

REGION AND IDENTITY

NATIVE PEOPLES

MEXICANOS AND TEJANOS

SOUTH MEETS WEST

FAR WEST