

Borderlands: Violence and Coexistence 23971 HIST 2971L - S01

Spring 2014

Graduate Thematic Seminar

Instructor: Omer Bartov, Office hours: Tues 12-2pm

Class 6:00 pm - 8:20 pm Tuesday, 79 Brown St, Peter Green House, PAVILION Room

Description:

The goal of this course is to examine the paradigm of “borderlands” within a variety of historical context. As an example of how this paradigm has been employed, we will use the recently published volume, *Shatterzone of Empires*, chapters from which we will be reading throughout the semester. The book considers the region of East Central and Southern Europe, as well as western Russia and parts of the Ottoman Empire, throughout the second part of the nineteenth century into post-1945 period. However, much of the work during the semester will depend on the participants in the seminar. At our first meeting, students will be asked to propose readings in their specific fields of interest pertinent to the main theme of “borderlands,” particularly as it relates to violence and coexistence between ethnic, national, and religious groups, among others. They will also propose chapters in *Shatterzone* that have a bearing on their own readings, to be read alongside their own proposed texts.

Requirements:

Students will be required pre-circulate a short paper on their topic as a basis to the discussion, and to lead the discussion of their proposed texts and topics. In the latter part of the semester, students will circulate more advanced drafts of their papers to be discussed in class. At the end of the semester, each student will be required to submit a final paper of approximately 25 pages that will tackle the issue of “borderlands” within his or her field of interest from any perspective they choose.

The point of this seminar is not massive reading but exposure to different historiographies, geographies, and chronologies from a distinct and focused perspective; developing an ability to discuss a specific theme as it relates to a variety of historical contexts; and learning to develop a thesis-oriented paper through several drafts on the basis of group discussions and critiques.

Students are required to purchase or use the copy on reserve at the library of Omer Bartov & Eric D. Weitz, eds., *Shatterzone of Empires: Coexistence and Violence in the German, Habsburg, Russian, and Ottoman Borderlands* (Indiana University Press, 2013)

The course has a Canvas page. Students will be able to send me PDF copies of their proposed readings and papers and I will post them on that page.

Canvas also has a discussion option: students are encouraged to exchange opinions on the topic of the week before our meeting so as to set up the seminar discussion.

In the course of the seminar, depending on availability and scheduling, I may ask other faculty members or visiting scholars at Brown to present their own perspectives on “Borderlands.”

Focused reading, energetic discussion, and articulate writing are key to this seminar!

Some Suggested Readings (relevant to *Shatterzone*):

Karen Barkey & Mark von Hagen, eds., *After Empire: Multiethnic Societies and Nation-Building. The Soviet Union and the Russian, Ottoman, and Habsburg Empires*

Rogers Brubaker et al., *Nationalist Politics and Everyday Ethnicity in a Transylvanian Town*

Jan T. Gross, *Fear: Anti-Semitism in Poland After Auschwitz*

Donald L. Horowitz, *The Deadly Ethnic Riot*

Stuart J. Kaufman, *Modern Hatreds: The Symbolic Politics of Ethnic War*

John D. Klier & Shlomo Lambroza, eds., *Pogroms: Anti-Jewish Violence in Modern Russian History*

Benjamin Nathans, *Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia*

Roger D. Petersen, *Understanding Ethnic Violence: Fear, Hatred, and Resentment in 20th-Century Eastern Europe*

Anna Reid, *Borderland: A Journey Thorough the History of Ukraine*

Aviel Roshwald, *Ethnic Nationalism & the Fall of Empires: Central Europe, Russia & the Middle East, 1914-1923*

Phillipp Ther & Ana Siljak, eds., *Redrawing Nations: Ethnic Clansing in East-Central Europe, 1944-1948*

Some Suggested Readings (in other historical contexts):

Vazira Fazila-Yacoobali Zamindar, *The Long Partition and the Making of Modern South Asia: Refugees, Boundaries, Histories*

Karl Jacoby, *Shadows at Dawn: A Borderlands Massacre and the Violence of History*

Peter Sahlins, *Boundaries: The Making of France and Spain in the Pyrenees*

American Borderlands and bibliography:

Problems and Prospects in North American **Borderlands** History

On Africa:

Bibliography - ABORNE - African **Borderlands** Research Network

Atlantic History:

Borderlands - Atlantic History - Oxford **Bibliographies**

Miscellaneous Borderlands bibliographies:

Borderlands Bibliography [Part II from 2004 Adelman, Jeremy](#)

[CIBR Borders Bibliography - Office of Research and Sponsored](#)