

**02-43-597 (01) / 02-45-588 (02)**

**Spatial History of the Windsor-Detroit Borderlands**

Winter 2018 / Tues 4:00-6:50 pm / CHN 1137

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**Dr. Jamey Essex**

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Hours: Tues 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, or by appt

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**Dr. Rob Nelson**

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**Course description**

This graduate level seminar course examines the historical development of the border region containing and defined by the Canada-US international boundary, the cities of Windsor and Detroit, and the surrounding area. We approach the Windsor-Detroit borderlands through an interdisciplinary and comparative perspective, and with the understanding that the border region is dynamic, shaped by and shaping of multiple forms of historical continuity and change and geographical connection and division. The course builds on readings from across history, geography, political science, and the emerging field of border studies, and on students' active participation, research papers, and small group projects. It is also part of a larger research project at our university on the borderlands, and aims to develop the university's position as a center for the study of borders, and the US-Canada border in particular.

**Required readings**

There are several readings for this course, all available through the course Blackboard site or the Leddy Library reserve desk. The readings span multiple academic disciplines, so some of them may be challenging and outside the norm for what you've done in previous classes in your home department. **It is essential, however, that you read them** for a full understanding of the concepts, cases, and themes of the course, to make a useful contribution in class discussion, and to do well on the assigned work for the course.

**Assignments and grades**

Your grade in this course will be based on several components: seminar participation, including one week in which you will start class discussion in the seminar meeting (15%); a midterm paper (35%); and a small group project (40%) and presentation (10%). Details on these will be provided in class and on Blackboard. Both Dr. Nelson and Dr. Essex will be involved in grading all assignments and participation.

- **Midterm paper (35%) – due Tuesday, February 13**
- **Small group presentation (10%) – in class on Tuesday, March 27, and Tuesday, April 3**
- **Final small group project (40%) – due by April 17**
- **Seminar participation (15%) – throughout the semester**

## Course Schedule

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### Jan 9: Outlining the class / group projects / guest speakers

- **READING:**
  - Ayers, Edward L. (2011) "Mapping Time." In Michael Dear, Jim Ketchum, Sarah Luria, and Douglas Richardson (eds.), *GeoHumanities: Art, History, Text at the Edge of Place*. New York: Routledge, 215-225.
  - White, Richard. (2017) "What is Spatial History?" Stanford University Spatial History Project, <http://stanford.edu/group/spatialhistory/cgi-bin/site/pub.php?id=29>.

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### Jan 16: Border studies 1 – Concepts

- **READING:**
  - Brunet-Jailly, Emmanuel. (2005) "Theorizing Borders: An Interdisciplinary Perspective." *Geopolitics*, 10 (4): 633-649. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14650040500318449>
  - Ethington, Philip J. (2007) "Placing the Past: 'Groundwork' for a Spatial Theory of History." *Rethinking History*, 11 (4): 465-494. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13642520701645487>
  - Konrad, Viktor. (2015) "Toward a Theory of Borders in Motion." *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 30 (1): 1-17. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08865655.2015.1008387>
  - Newman, David. (2003) "On borders and power: A theoretical framework." *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 18 (1): 13-25. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/08865655.2003.9695598>

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### Jan 23: Border studies 2 – Cases

- **GUEST SPEAKER:** Matthew Bias, Department of History, George Washington University
- **READING:**
  - Cassarino, Jean-Pierre. (2017) "Approaching borders and frontiers in North Africa." *International Affairs*, 93 (4): 883-896. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/ia/iix124>
  - Ciancia, Kathryn. (2017) "Borderland Modernity: Poles, Jews, and Urban Spaces in Interwar Eastern Poland." *The Journal of Modern History*, 89 (3): 531-561. <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/692992>

- Jones, Reece. (2017) "The US-Mexico Border: Rise of a Militarized Zone." In *Violent Borders: Refugees and the Right to Move*. London: Verso, 29-47.
- Kopp, Kristin. (2009) "Reinventing Poland as German Colonial Territory in the Nineteenth Century: Gustav Freytag's *Soll und Haben* as Colonial Novel." In Robert Nelson (ed.), *Germans, Poland, and Colonial Expansion to the East: 1850 Through the Present*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 11-37.

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### Jan 30: Border studies 3 – Greater Windsor-Detroit

- *GUEST SPEAKER*: Dr. Lee Rodney, School of Creative Arts and Borderlands Research Group, University of Windsor
- *IN CLASS*: Discussion of initial research topics from each group
- *READING*:
  - Konrad, Victor and Heather N. Nicol. (2011) "Border Culture, the Boundary Between Canada and the United States of America, and the Advancement of Borderlands Theory." *Geopolitics*, 16 (1): 70-90. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2010.493773>
  - Nugent, Paul. (2012) "Border Towns and Cities in Comparative Perspective." In Thomas M. Wilson and Hastings Donnan (eds.), *A Companion to Border Studies*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 557-572.
  - Rodney, Lee. (2017) "Have You Left the American Sector? Detroit's Borderama Spectacle." In *Looking Beyond Borderlines: North America's Frontier Imagination*. New York: Routledge, 178-198.

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### Feb 6: Key moment 1 – Indigenous histories and settler colonialism in the borderlands

- *GUEST SPEAKER*: Dr. Guillaume Teasdale, Department of History, University of Windsor
- *READING*:
  - Cangany, Catherine. (2015) "'The Inhabitants of both Sides of this Streight constitute a french Colony': The Detroit River and the Politics of International Milling." In Guillaume Teasdale and Tangi Villerbu (eds.), *Une Amérique française, 1760-1860: Dynamiques du corridor créole*. Paris: Les Indes Savantes, 41-60.
  - Hatter, Lawrence B.A. (2008) "The Transformation of the Detroit land Market and the Formation of the Anglo-American Border, 1783-1796." *Michigan Historical Review*, 34 (1): 83-99. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20174259>

- Lytwyn, Victor and Dean Jacobs. (2000) “‘For Good Will and Affection’: The Detroit Indian Deeds and British Land Policy, 1760-1827.” *The Journal of the Ontario Historical Society*, 92 (1): 9-30.
- Sturtevant, Andrew. (2013) “‘Inseparable Companions’ and Irreconcilable Enemies: The Hurons and the Odawas of French Détroit, 1701-38.” *Ethnohistory*, 60 (2): 219-243.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1215/00141801-2018936>

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### **Feb 13: Active research 1 – Getting started, finding sources, organizing your work**

- *IN CLASS*: We will discuss methods for getting started on identifying, locating, and getting useful sources of empirical information for the final projects, and you will work in class on establishing the next phase of a research plan, narrowing your topical focus and questions, and building a framework and timeline for completing the project.
- *DUE*: Midterm paper on comparative case study examination of border regions

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### **Feb 20: Reading week**

- No class

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### **Feb 27: Key moment 2 – (De)Industrialization and (Sub)urbanization**

- *READING*:
  - Bunge, William. (2011 [1971]) *Fitzgerald: Geography of a Revolution*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press. [“Foreword to 2011 edition,” by Nik Heynen and Trevor Barnes, vii-xvi; “Introduction,” 1-4; and Chapter VII, “Slums Move Closer,” 125-140]
  - Karibo, Holly. (2010) “Detroit’s Border Brothel: Sex Tourism in Windsor, Ontario, 1945-1960.” *American Review of Canadian Studies*, 40 (3): 362-378.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02722011.2010.496905>
  - Sugrue, Thomas J. (2005) “‘The Damning Mark of False Prosperities’: The Deindustrialization of Detroit.” In T.J. Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 125-152.

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### **Mar 6: Active research 2 – Preparing and presenting your research / Digital history**

- *GUEST SPEAKER*: Dr. Miriam Wright, Department of History, University of Windsor

- *IN CLASS*: Discussion of preparation and presentation of historical research to a wider public and via the internet, time to discuss and work on presentation formatting and preparation for the final projects. Look at the online projects *Breaking the Colour Barrier* (<http://cdigs.uwindsor.ca/BreakingColourBarrier/>) and the *Southwestern Ontario Digital History* database (<http://cdigs.uwindsor.ca/omeka/>) before class this week.
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### **Mar 13: Key moment 3 – boundary infrastructures**

- *GUEST SPEAKER*: Dr. Bill Anderson, Department of Political Science and the Cross-Border Institute, University of Windsor
  - *READING*:
    - Anderson, Bill. (2012) *The Border and the Ontario Economy*. Windsor, ON: Cross Border Institute, University of Windsor. <http://cbinstitute.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/The-Border-and-the-Ontario-Economy.pdf>
    - Nelles, Jen and John B. Sutcliffe. (2013) "On the Boundary: Local Authorities, Intergovernmental Relations and the Governance of Border Infrastructure in the Detroit-Windsor Region." *Regional and Federal Studies*, 23 (2): 213-232. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13597566.2012.742072>
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### **Mar 20: Active research 3 – Reading the borderland landscape**

- *FIELD TRIP*: A walk along the Windsor riverfront to engage the border landscape
  - *READING*:
    - Cronon, William. (2009) "Learning to Do Historical Research: Sources / How to Read a Landscape." <http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/landscapes.htm>
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### **Mar 27: Presentations of research projects**

- *IN CLASS/DUE*: Each student pair/small group gives a 20 minute presentation on their work
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### **Apr 3: Presentations of research projects**

- *IN CLASS/DUE*: Each student pair/small group gives a 20 minute presentation on their work
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