

Fall 2024

Borders and Borderlands

SPAN 659 / CMPL 650

Dr. Kinnally



This course will offer an introduction to influential theoretical and critical approximations to borders and border studies, as well as an introduction to how border studies intersects with postcolonial and transnational critical approaches, gender studies, and critical race theory. Students will work to apply theories of borders, hybridity, *mestizaje*, and in-betweenness to literature and film, primarily in the context of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States, although we will also engage with cultural production in other areas of the world. The course explores not only physical borders and geopolitical borderlands, but also the ways in which ideas of mixture, hybridity, and fluidity can be used to understand communal and individual identity, race and ethnicity, and gender and sexuality. The course will include landmark critical and theoretical works in diverse fields that intersect with border studies, as well as depictions of geopolitical, racial, sexual, corporeal, and sociocultural borderlands in literature and film. Specific topics addressed will include undocumented status of immigrants in the U.S., criminalization of border subjects and (im)migrants, use of technology in border surveillance and migration control, experiences of diaspora and diasporic communities, and queer migrant identities.

Contact Dr. Cara Kinnally at ckinnall@purdue.edu for more info.