

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History
Fall 2014

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Office hours: Wednesday 1-3, 5127 Humanities

History 600: European Borderlands

This research seminar examines the history of contested borderlands in Europe since the 17th Century. Historians have increasingly turned to borderlands in order to analyze the development of national and cultural identities in Europe. Some argue that borderlands are unique sites to study national sentiment, linguistic and cultural conflicts, and the complex links between local, regional, and national identities. But is this really the case? Do borderlands have broader relevance or are they exceptional cases? The seminar will investigate these and other questions by focusing on the Franco-Spanish frontier, the Rhine and the Franco-German border, Eastern European and Balkan borderlands, and the German-German border during the era of the Iron Curtain.

Format: Reading and discussion. We will meet for the first 9 weeks of the semester to discuss common readings. Students are responsible for leading (in collaboration with another seminar member) one class discussion. By 9 p.m. on the day preceding seminar, students are required to post **two** discussion questions based on the reading on the Learn@UW site. During the second half of the semester students will research and write a 20-25 page research paper based on primary and secondary sources.

In this class you will learn to:

- Conduct in-depth historical research
- Select and interpret primary sources
- Craft an original research topic
- Write a lengthy research paper that demonstrates your ability to evaluate sources critically and provide a convincing historical interpretation of the materials you have used.

Requirements: Four one-page papers due early in the semester, a 1-2 page research statement of purpose, a detailed bibliography, and a paper outline. The central requirement of the course is a 20-25 page research paper on some aspect of the history of borderlands in Europe. You will also be required to discuss and critique the first drafts of other students and to make a formal oral presentation to the seminar during the last week of classes. Class participation will be a component of your final grade. Required books are available for purchase at the online or brick and mortar bookstore of your choice and are also on 3-hour reserve in College Library. In addition a **course reader** is available for purchase at the **Copy Center in 6120 Social Science Building**.

Attendance is required. Please warn me in advance if you will be unable to attend a particular class session.

Library Workshop: All students are required to attend a History 600 research workshop in Memorial Library (Room 231). The workshops are offered on Monday Sept 16, Wed Sept 18, and Wed Sept 24 from 6 to 7:30 pm. Please register for one workshop by using the following links:

Tues. Sept. 16th - registration link: <http://go.wisc.edu/i66t09>

Thur. Sept. 18th - registration link: <http://go.wisc.edu/hr2w29>

Wed. Sept. 24th - registration link: <http://go.wisc.edu/d5x49h>

Grading: Class participation 25%, short papers 15%, final paper 60%.

The following books are required and are also available on 3 hour reserve at College Library:

Peter Sahlins, Boundaries: The Making of France and Spain in the Pyrenees (University of California Press, 1989)

Edith Sheffer, Burned Bridge: How East and West Germans made the Iron Curtain (Oxford University Press, 2011)

Week 1 (September 8) Introduction

Week 2 (September 15). Borderlands in Historical Perspective

Peter Sahlins, Boundaries, Preface, Introduction, 1-132.

Michiel Baud and Willem Van Schendel, "Toward a Comparative History of Borderlands," Journal of World History 8 (1997): 211-242.

Week 3 (September 22). Forging a Border in the Pyrenees

Sahlins, Boundaries, 133-197; 238-298.

William Douglass, "A Western Perspective on an Eastern interpretation of where North meets South: Pyrenean Border Cultures," in Thomas M. Wilson and Hastings Donnan, Border Identities: Nation and State at International Frontiers (Cambridge University Press, 1998): 62-95.

One page paper due in class.

Week 4 (September 29). The Rhine and the Franco-German Border

Peter Schöttler, "The Rhine as an object of Historical Controversy in the Inter-War Years. Towards a History of Frontier Mentalities," History Workshop Journal 39 (1995): 1-21.

Tara Zahra, "The 'Minority Problem' and National Classification in the French and Czechoslovak Borderlands," Contemporary European History 17 (2008): 137-165

David Harvey, "Lost Children or Enemy Aliens? Classifying the Population of Alsace after the First World War," Journal of Contemporary History 34 (1999): 537-554.

John Western, "Neighbors or Strangers? Binational and Transnational Identities in Strasbourg," Annals of the Association of American Geographers 97 (2007): 140-83.

One page paper due in class.

Week 5 (October 6). Borderlands in Eastern Europe and the Balkans

Tara Zahra, "Looking East: East Central European "Borderlands" in German History and Historiography," History Compass 3 (2005), 1-23.

John Agnew, "No Borders, No Nations: Making Greece in Macedonia," Annals of the Association of American Geographers 97 (2007): 398-422.

Patrice M. Dabrowski, "Discovering" the Galician Borderlands: The Case of the Eastern Carpathians," Slavic Review 64 (Summer 2005): 380-402

"Introduction: Coexistence and Violence in the German, Habsburg, Russian, and Ottoman Borderlands," in Omer Bartov and Eric D. Weitz, Shatterzones of Empires: Coexistence and Violence in the German, Habsburg, Russian and Ottoman Borderlands (Indiana University Press, 2013), 1-12.

Larry Wolff, "The Traveler's View of Central Europe: Gradual Transitions and Degrees of Difference in European Borderlands," in Bartov and Weitz, Shatterzones of Empires, 23-41.

Pieter M. Judson, "Marking Space on the Habsburg Austrian Borderlands, 1880-1918," in Bartov and Weitz, Shatterzones of Empires, 122-35

Omer Bartov, "Communal Genocide: Personal Accounts of the Destruction of Buczacz, Eastern Galicia, 1941-44," in Bartov and Weitz, Shatterzones of Empires, 399-420.

Pamela Ballinger, "Liquid Borderland, Inelastic Sea? Mapping the Eastern Adriatic," in Bartov and Weitz, Shatterzones of Empires, 423-437.

Research question due in class.

One page paper due in class.

Week 6 (October 13). Library Session (European History Bibliographer).

Meet at 3:30 in 231 Memorial Library

Don't take a vacation this week! Work on your research project.

Friday October 17 at noon: post on Learn@UW a three sentence description of your research project along with a title.

Week 7 (October 20). Building the German-German Border

Edith Sheffer, Burned Bridge: How East and West Germans made the Iron Curtain (Oxford University Press, 2011), 3-70, 97-141.

One page paper due in class: How does Sheffer's approach/interpretation differ from previous ones?

Week 8 (October 27). Contemporary Borders East and West

Sheffer, Burned Bridge, 142-257

Daphne Berdahl, Where the World Ended: Re-Unification and Identity in the German Borderland (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999): 1-9, 141-83

1-page summary of your research project due in class (post on Learn@UW and put a hard copy in my box): What is the question you are trying to answer? What is the problem you are trying to solve? How does your proposed research fit into the existing literature? I will pair you with another member of the class and you will be required to provide a written critique of your respective proposals. Send your partner an electronic copy of your proposal.

One to two paragraph critique of your partner's research proposal due by Wednesday October 29 at noon (email a copy to me, and a copy to your partner)

Week 9 (November 3). The Research Process

Bibliography of primary and secondary sources due in class.

Paper outline due

Discussion of sample research papers.

You should also be prepared to give a short (5 minute) presentation on your research project.

Week 10 (November 10). No class. Work on your research projects

By November 10, send me a 2 paragraph email outlining the research you have completed and discussing one key problem you need to resolve

Week 11 (November 17). No class. Work on your research project

Week 12 (November 24). No Class.

Rough draft due Monday November 24 at 3:30. Rough drafts should be as complete as possible (including footnotes, a bibliography, an introduction and a conclusion). The more you present, the more you will profit from the comments of your fellow students. Place a printed copy in my box **and send me an electronic version. You should also send an electronic version to the other members of your peer review group.**

Week 13 (December 1).

Discussion of rough drafts in small groups of 2 or 3.

Week 14 (December 8).

In class oral presentations

*****Final paper due Monday December 15 at noon*****