

TERM: Fall 2024
COURSE NUMBER & CATEGORY: ENGL 3600 RP
COURSE TITLE: Borderlands of Los Angeles
SECTION TIMES/DAYS: W 6:00-9:20 pm
INSTRUCTOR: Martínez

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

This course views “borders” as a paradoxical phenomenon in the social and cultural sense: on the one hand imagined (and to an extent practiced) as fixed demarcations between communities but also experienced as permeable sites of dynamic identity formation (something like “third spaces,” to borrow urban theorist Edward Soja’s term). There are spaces where two dominant communities collide (like galaxies sometimes do in space): Black and Latine in South Los Angeles; indigenous Mexican and Korean in Greater K-Town; Latine and Chinese in the San Gabriel Valley; Ethiopian and Jewish in the Fairfax District, etc. This course both theorizes why and how such spaces come to be, and practices them through creative narrative projects. We will study the literatures of Los Angeles that represent the “borderlands,” digging deep historically and up to the present. The class includes immersive activities like field trips and community-based research projects.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Knowledge of Los Angeles history from Indigenous era to the present relevant to racial and ethnic formation.
- Fluency in key modes of urban theory, especially spatiality.
- Survey of key literatures and journalism of Los Angeles that narrating immigrant and racial and ethnic enclaves.
- Engaged learning through immersive field trips.
- Produce original narrative writing about a “borderland” community in Los Angeles.

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTION:

Junior/Senior Only

RECOMMENDED/PREREQUISITES:

Select Recommended/Prerequisite Below

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

OLD CURRICULUM

- ☐ GENRES (LD)
- ☐ HISTORIES (LD)
- ☐ AUTHORS (UD)
- ☐ CRITICAL/THEORETICAL (UD)
- ☒ COMPARATIVE (UD)
- ☐ CREATIVE/ARTISTRY

NEW CURRICULUM

- ☐ DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH (LD)
- ☐ HISTORY OF LIT, MEDIA, AND CULTURE (LD)
- ☐ READING AND WRITING GENRES (LD)
- ☐ THEORY, POWER, AND RHETORIC (LD)
- ☐ PRE-1800 (UD)
- ☐ CREATIVE ARTISTRY (UD)
- ☒ RACE, INTERSECTIONALITY, AND POWER (UD)
- ☐ UPPER-DIVISION ELECTIVE (UD)
- ☐ 5000-LEVEL SEMINAR (UD)