HIST 585-002: Special Topics in History:

Topic: European Borderlands

<table>
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<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Day(s)</th>
<th>Time(s)</th>
<th>Maximum Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Payne &amp; Eckert</td>
<td>TU</td>
<td>1:00 – 4:00 pm</td>
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Semester Description:

This course introduces students to the historical study of borders and borderlands in Central and Eastern European history during the nineteenth and twentieth century. War and conquest have frequently redrawn European borders, late twentieth century developments have altered how they function in Western Europe (Schengen), dismantled some in Central Europe (Berlin Wall, “Velvet Revolution”), and created a myriad of new ones in Eastern Europe (dissolution of the Soviet Union). Each new upheaval underscored the point that as spatialized social relations, borderlands may have an afterlife as phantom or defunct borderlands well beyond the states that created them.

With the rise of the modern nation state in the nineteenth century, borders increasingly became lines of demarcation and spatial limits of state power. Territorial strategies aimed at exercising authority in border regions in order to establish a firm relationship between territory and identity, a process frequently accompanied by exclusion. In the early twentieth century, areas of great local, religious, ethnic and cultural diversity were subjected to strategies of homogenization and simplification, many of them violent. At the same time the Russian Revolution produced an “internationalist” polity, the Soviet Union, that sought to create “proletarian nations” while conducting violent class war. The course is not wedded to a state-centric perspective but will emphasize the everyday life of people in border regions and take into focus the often unanticipated social, economic and cultural consequences of new borders and “paper partitions” (Schlögel) that produce a borderland (Brown). Various cross-border networks and migrations may challenge the state’s efforts to enforce the border, yet social practice on the ground may also reproduce the political boundary. The course draws on various methodological approaches from the political to the social to the cultural, including ethnographic, anthropologic and subaltern methodologies. It will also pay close attention to border-related and spatial terminology (territoriality, “contact zone”, “borderlands milieu”, region/regionalism, periphery, “trans”), and the special role of borderlands within Empire.

Required Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:

Tentatively:


**Recommended Textbooks, Articles, and Resources:**

Tentatively:


**Grading:**

- Class participation: 20%
- Response papers: 20%
Fall 2013

- Oral presentation: 20%
- Final paper: 40%

Syllabus:

Forthcoming