

MARCH 2017 MONTHLY REPORT - COMMITTEE ON CURRICULUM

To: Peter Bales, Academic Senate Steering Committee
From: Lorena B. Ellis, Chairperson, Committee on Curriculum
Date: March 23, 2017
Subject: March Monthly Report for the April, 2017 Senate
CC: College Archives (CWilliams@qcc.cuny.edu)

The Committee on Curriculum has voted to send the following recommendations to the Academic Senate:

1 Course revisions

1. Course Revision

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
Departmental approval February, 28, 2017

FROM

(title and course description revision)

~~HIST 193 Introduction to the History of Borderlands~~
3 class hours 3 credits
Pre-requisite and Co-Requisite ENGL101

Course description:

Borderlands are areas where nation states meet one another. There are many borderlands the world over, and many of them share similar problems and challenges for their respective governments. ~~In this class, we will see how there is a common trajectory to borderlands histories, since they are all by definition frontier zones and they often elude state surveillance. Such highly diverse actors as cattle rustlers, Indians, runaway slaves, grasping caudillos, and drug runners appear often in borderlands histories. We will compare the history of borderlands across Latin America and pay particular attention to the border separating Latin American and U.S. space. The U.S./Mexico borderlands—as they are the most familiar and well researched of contemporary global borderlands—will figure prominently in the course~~

TO:

HIST 193 The History of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands in Perspective
3 class hours 3 credits
Pre-requisite and Co-Requisite ENGL101

Course description:

Borderlands are areas where nation states meet one another. There are many borderlands the world over, and many of them share similar problems and challenges for their respective governments. Since they are all by definition frontier zones and they often elude state surveillance, such highly diverse actors as cattle rustlers, Indians, runaway slaves, grasping caudillos, and drug runners appear often in borderlands histories. In this class, we will compare the history of borderlands across Latin America and pay particular attention to the U.S.-Mexico border. Through examining secondary texts, official government documents, and even the songs and stories authored by border people themselves, we will unravel the immensely complicated and troubled history of these borderlands.

Rationale:

This class needed to be clarified in both its description and title. For this reason, the description was changed to more accurately reflect how the main topic of this class is the border between the United States and Mexico. There are numerous reasons to justify this focus. The centrality of the U.S.-Mexico border to current political debate makes this a particularly relevant topic. This course will also introduce students to the much lesser-known Mexican side of this history, which will sharpen their global awareness. This class will give students a critical vocabulary to discuss a contemporary issue of utmost importance.