



BORDERLANDS of SOUTHERN COLORADO

Borderlands of Southern Colorado Syllabus

“When you come from the borderlands
is to know that you come from before.”

— Gloria Anzaldúa

The more we explore the history of Colorado’s borderlands the more we want to know. This syllabus is designed to provide resources to people — like us — who want to know more and learn more about the unique heritage and culture of the **Borderlands of Southern Colorado**.

While this syllabus stretches wide, it is not exhaustive. It is also dynamic and we will continue to add as new resources are revealed and created.

We hope you will use this syllabus for yourself, to build community conversations, to nurture book club discussions, in classrooms, for teachers and mentors, and to guide how we think about this important history.

BOOKS

The Grounding Text

Borderlands of Southern Colorado is grounded in the writings of Chicana philosopher Gloria Anzaldua, especially her book:

[*Borderlands / La Frontera: The New Mestiza*](#)

“To survive the Borderlands
you must live sin fronteras be a crossroads.”

— Gloria Anzaldua

History Texts

[*Translating Property*](#), Maria Montoya

[*Creating the American West: Boundaries and Borderlands*](#), Derek Everett

[*The Apache Diaspora: Four Centuries of Displacement and Survival*](#), Paul Conrad
(available April 2021)

[*No Separate Refuge: Culture, Class, and Gender on an Anglo-Hispanic Frontier in the American Southwest, 1880-1940*](#), Sarah Deutsch

The People of El Valle: A history of the Spanish colonials in the San Luis Valley,
Olibama Lopez-Tushar

[*Line in the Sand: A History of the Western U.S.-Mexico Border*](#), Rachel St. John

[*Archives of Dispossession*](#), Karen Roybal

[*The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo: A Legacy of Conflict*](#), by Richard Griswold del
Castillo

[*Forgotten Cuchareños of the Lower Valley*](#), Virginia Sanchez

[*Enduring Legacies: Ethnic Histories and Cultures of Colorado*](#), Reiland Rabaka

[*The Legacy of Conquest: The Unbroken Past of the American West*](#), Patty Limerick

[*The Comanche Empire*](#), Pekka Hamalainen

[*Coast-to-Coast Empire: Manifest Destiny and the New Mexico Borderlands*](#), William
S. Kiser

[*An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States*](#), Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

[*Pleas and Petitions: Hispano Culture and Legislative Conflict in Territorial Colorado*](#),
Virginia Sanchez

[*La Gente: Hispano History and Life in Colorado*](#), Vincent De Baca (ed.)

Land of the Blue Sky People, Luther Bean

[*La Sociedad: Guardians of Hispanic Culture along the Rio Grande*](#), Jose A. Rivera

Land of the Penitentes, Land of Tradition, Ruben Archuleta

[*Pueblo, Hardscrabble, Greenhorn*](#), Janet LeCompte

[*On the Edge of Purgatory*](#), Bonnie Clark

[*The Geology, Ecology, and Human History of the San Luis Valley*](#), Jared Beeton,
Charles Nicholas Saenz & Benjamin Waddell (eds.)

Poetry

[*With the River on Our Face*](#), Emmy Perez

[*Canicula: Snapshots of a Girlhood en la Frontera*](#), Norma Cantú

[*Colcha*](#), Aaron Abeyta

Fiction

[*Cabañuelas: A Novel*](#), Norma Elia Cantú

[*Bless Me Ultima*](#), Rudolfo Anaya

[*Woman Hollering Creek*](#), Sandra Cisneros

[*Sabrina & Corina*](#), Kali Fajardo-Anstine

[*Death Comes for the Archbishop*](#), Willa Cather

Indigenous Captivity

[*The Other Slavery*](#), Andres Resendez

[*Violence over the Land: Indians and Empires in the Early American West*](#), Ned
Blackhawk

[*Captives and Cousins: Slavery, Kinship, and Community in the Southwest Borderlands*](#), James R. Brooks

[*Nación Genízara: Ethnogenesis, Place, and Identity in New Mexico*](#), eds. Moises Gonzales & Enrique R. Lamadrid

[*Situational Identities Along the Raiding Frontier of Colonial New Mexico*](#), Jun Sunseri

[*Captives: How Stolen People Changed the World*](#), Catherine Cameron

Borderlands Food

[*Taco USA*](#), Gustavo Arellano

[*A Tortilla Is Like Life: Food and Culture in the San Luis Valley of Colorado*](#), Carole Counihan

The Good Life: New Mexico Traditions and Food, Fabiola Cabeza de Baca Gilbert

[*Eating the Landscape: American Indian Stories of Food, Identity, and Resilience*](#),
Enrique Salmon

Language

[*A Dictionary of New Mexico and Southern Colorado Spanish*](#), Ruben Cobos

[*The Spanish Language of New Mexico and Southern Colorado*](#), Garland Bliss and
Neddy Vigil

Memoir/Testimonio

[*Border Women: Writing from La Frontera*](#), Debra A. Castillo and María Socorro
Tabuenca Córbo

[*Feminism on the Border: Chicana Gender Politics and Literature*](#), Sonia Saldivar-Hull

[*Querencia: Reflections on the New Mexico Homeland*](#), Vanessa Fonseca-Chavez, Levi
Romero & Spencer Herrera (eds.)

Ecological

Ecological Borderlands: Body, Nature, and Spirit in Chicana Feminism, Christina
Holmes

[*Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants*](#), Robin Wall Kimmerer

[*Acequia: Water Sharing, Sanctity, and Place*](#), Sylvia Rodriguez

Immigration/Migration

[*Borderwall as Architecture: A Manifesto for the U.S.-Mexico Boundary*](#), Ronald Rael

[*Crossing Over: A Mexican Family on the Migrant Trail*](#), Rueben Martinez

DIGITAL

Digital Exhibits

[La Gente: Colorado's Mexican History](#)

[Ute Tribal Paths](#)

[Bent's Fort: The Fur Trade in Colorado](#)

Websites

Ruben Archuleta's personal archives, www.eljeferuben.com

Sociedad Proteccion Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos, www.spmdu.org

Hilos Culturales, <http://www.hilosculturales.org/>

Manitos: Digital Resolana, <http://manitos.net/>

Podcasts

COauthored, History Colorado. Episodes "Vera Esquibel, Salt Creek," "Juan Federico Trujillo, pts. 1-4," "Emilio Lobato." www.soundcloud.com/coauthored

UnPacked: History Talks from History Colorado, History Colorado.
www.soundcloud.com/unpacked-podcast

Lost Highways: Dispatches from the Shadows of the Rocky Mountains, History Colorado. Episodes "A Line in the Sand," "Miseducation of Freddy Freak," "Going to Trinidad, Again"

Teaching Hard History, Teaching Tolerance. Season 2, Episode 7 "The Other History."
<https://www.tolerance.org/podcasts/teaching-hard-history/american-slavery/the-other-slavery>

Teaching Hard History, Teaching Tolerance Season 2, Episode 8 "Silver, Resistance and the Evolution of Slavery in the West."
<https://www.tolerance.org/podcasts/teaching-hard-history/american-slavery/silver-resistance-and-the-evolution-of-slavery-in-the-west>

Video

Borderlands of Southern Colorado Online Lecture Series, History Colorado.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI68fpINJM8DloYD2a5Xum4ORsRSWKZGS>

A Long Journey: The Hidden Jews of the Southwest, New Mexico PBS.

<https://portal.knme.org/video/a-long-journey-the-hidden-jews-of-the-southwest-pjxuez/>

Settling the Sand Dunes, Colorado Experience, Rocky Mountain PBS.

<https://video.rmpbs.org/video/settling-the-sand-dunes-4qqavd/>

The San Luis Valley, Colorado Experience, Rocky Mountain PBS.

<https://video.rmpbs.org/video/colorado-experience-san-luis-valley/>

Trinidad, Colorado Experience, Rocky Mountain PBS.

<https://video.rmpbs.org/video/colorado-experience-trinidad/>

Boggsville, Colorado Experience, Rocky Mountain PBS.

<https://video.rmpbs.org/video/colorado-experience-boggsville>

Bent's Fort, Colorado Experience, Rocky Mountain PBS.

<https://video.rmpbs.org/video/colorado-experience-bents-fort>

MEDIA ARTICLES

[The Long-Forgotten Vigilante Murders of the San Luis Valley](#), by Robert Sanchez,
5280 magazine

[Mondragons place Antonito on the map](#), by Emma Lynch, *La Voz*

[Designing Democracy Around a Ditch](#), by Sarah C. Rich, *Smithsonian Magazine*

[Indian Slavery Once Thrived in New Mexico. Latinos Are Finding Family Ties to It.](#) by
Simon Romero, *The New York Times*, Jan. 28, 2018.

[Americans Need to Know the Hard Truth About Union Monuments in the West](#), by
Megan Kate Nelson, *The Atlantic*, July 10, 2020.

TREATIES & PRIMARY SOURCES

[Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo](#)

[Records of the Land Resource Council](#)

[Treaty With the Ute, March 2, 1868 \(NARA record\)](#)

[The Brunot Agreement, 1874](#)

[Agreement with the Capote, Muache, and Weeminuche Utes, 1879](#)