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


*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 Córboba

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](http://www.eljeferuben.com)
- Sociedad Proteccion Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos, [wwwspmduo.org](http://wwwspmduo.org)

**Podcasts**
- 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”
Video

Borderlands of Southern Colorado Online Lecture Series, History Colorado.
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLl68fpINJM8DloYD2aSXum4ORsRSWZKGS

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

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.

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


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