



## IR/PO/SO 347 THE WALL: BORDERS, VIOLENCE & SEPARATION IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

IES Abroad Barcelona

### DESCRIPTION:

The course examines the current process of wall building along borders experienced by a growing number of nation-states. Despite the fact that common discourse on globalization dismisses borders as increasingly irrelevant to the human experience, the Western world is actually erecting new borders, both material and immaterial (i.e. challenges to the Schengen system in Europe, the Dublin convention, forced eviction of migrants/refugees, etc.), essentially aiming to control, deter and dissuade human mobility. Wall building practices today are becoming a widely spread political strategy. Certainly, the imagery of walls, sealed off and heavily securitized borders has only but proliferated in Europe and elsewhere over the last decades.

The variability of borders and bordering processes will be interpreted through an overview of the contemporary theoretical analysis of borders/borderlands, elaborating on their complexity as spaces/lines, natural/constructed features, porous/fixed territorial definitions, etc. Through the analysis of diverse cases of historical and recent wall/border construction, the course aims will highlight the global dimension of the security issue in a comparative way. More attention will be dedicated to the encounter/clash between local communities and the process of imposition of walls: borders create political, social and cultural distinctions, but simultaneously imply the existence of networks across them, movement of protest, and the construction/reconstruction of group identities. The focus of the course revolves around people's agency at the border/wall, and concentrates on how wall building has today a strong connection with the control of migration and people flows.

**CREDITS:** 3 credits

**CONTACT HOURS:** 45 hours

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** English

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**ADDITIONAL COST:** None

### METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lectures
- Class Discussion
- Case study analysis
- Final
- Film viewings

### REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Oral presentation – 10%
- Research paper – 20%
- Midterm exam – 30%
- Final exam – 30%
- Class participation - 10%

### Research paper

Students will submit a 2000–2250-word research paper on one of the topics analyzed in class. The paper will be presented in class orally.

### Midterm exam

Open-ended questions on the readings and the topics analyzed in class.

### Final exam

Open-ended questions on the readings and the topics analyzed in class.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- By the end of the course students will be able to:
- Analyze the complexity of borders/borderlands construction and interpretation
- Interpret the cogent political aspect in the process of wall building
- Interpret the global dimension of the political discourse on securitization
- Identify and compare different wall building processes
- Understand the global dimension of human flows and human interaction with borders/walls
- Discover diverse/divisive narratives about walls and borders
- Interpret the importance of walls/borders in shaping group identities
- Discuss walls de-construction strategies

### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

As a member of our class community, you are expected to be present and on time every day. Attending class has an impact on your learning and academic success. For this reason, attendance is required for all IES Barcelona classes, including course-related excursions. If a student misses more than three classes in any course without justification, 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven unjustified absences in any course will result in a failing grade. Absences will only be justified, and assessed work, including exams, tests and presentations rescheduled, in cases of documented medical or family emergencies.

### CONTENT:

| Session   | Content                                                                 | Required Reading                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| Session 1 | Introduction                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Session 2 | Bordering, ordering and othering in Europe                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schapiro, J.J. (November 27, 2019). What are borders for? <i>The New Yorker</i>.<br/><a href="https://www.newyorker.com/books/under-review/what-are-borders-for">https://www.newyorker.com/books/under-review/what-are-borders-for</a></li> <li>• Marshall, T. (2018). <i>Divided: Why We're Living in an Age of Walls</i> (pp.1-8). Elliott and Thompson.</li> </ul> |
| Session 3 | <b>What is a border? (I)</b><br>Borders and identity building processes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diener, A. C., &amp; Hagen, J. (2012). <i>Borders: A very short introduction</i> (pp.1-18). Oxford University Press.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Session 4 | <b>What is a border (II)?</b><br>Bordering beyond the nation-state      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Popescu, G. (2011). <i>Bordering and ordering the twenty-first century: Understanding borders</i> (pp.-7-27). Rowman &amp; Littlefield Publishers.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Session 5 | <b>The physical and political rebordering of the European Union (I)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Van Houtum, H., &amp; Bueno Lacy, R. (2020). The autoimmunity of the EU's deadly b/ordering regime;</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|                   | The securitization of borders in the European Union                                                                                         | overcoming its paradoxical paper, iron and camp borders. <i>Geopolitics</i> , 25(3), 706-733.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Session 6</b>  | <b>The physical and political rebordering of the European Union (II)</b><br>Markets of migration control and the business of building walls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>López-Sala, A., &amp; Godenau, D. (2022). In private hands? the markets of migration control and the politics of outsourcing. <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i>, 48(7), 1610-1628.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Session 7</b>  | <b>The Spanish-Moroccan Border (I)</b><br>The border fences in Ceuta and Melilla                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ferrer-Gallardo, X., &amp; Gabrielli, L. (2022). The Ceuta Border Peripeteia: Tasting the Externalities of EU Border Externalization. <i>Journal of Borderlands Studies</i>, 1-11. <a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08865655.2022.2048680?journalCode=rjbs20">https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08865655.2022.2048680?journalCode=rjbs20</a></li> </ul> |
| <b>Session 8</b>  | <b>The Spanish-Moroccan Border (II)</b><br>The Western-Sahara/Morocco wall                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Session 9</b>  | Schengen and the internal rebordering of Europe (I)                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marshall, T. (2018). <i>Divided: Why We're Living in an Age of Walls</i> (pp.201-239). Elliott and Thompson.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Session 10</b> | EU border externalization: Libya, Turkey, Morocco                                                                                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Panebianco, S. (2022). The EU and migration in the Mediterranean: EU borders' control by proxy. <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i>, 48(6), 1398-1416.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Session 11</b> | Midterm review                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Session 12</b> | Midterm Exam                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Session 13</b> | <b>The EU refugee crisis, borders and xenophobia (I)</b><br>The refugee crisis from a historical perspective                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lucassen, L. (2018). Peeling an onion: The "refugee crisis" from a historical perspective. <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i>, 41(3), 383-410.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Session 14</b> | <b>The EU refugee crisis, borders and xenophobia (II)</b><br>Syrian refugees and Ukrainian refugees                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The New Yorker (2016). The Journey from Syria. <a href="https://www.newyorker.com/topics/the-journey-from-syria-documentary">https://www.newyorker.com/topics/the-journey-from-syria-documentary</a></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Session 15</b> | <b>Borders, identity and islamophobia (I)</b><br>The Reconquista and the bordering of Islam in Spain                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>García-Sanjuán, A. (2018). Rejecting al-Andalus, exalting the Reconquista: historical memory in contemporary Spain. <i>Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies</i>, 10(1), 127-145.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Session 16</b> | <b>Borders, identity and islamophobia (II)</b><br>Eurabia? Imagining Europe as endangered by Islamisation                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gualda, E. (2021). Metaphors of invasion: Imagining Europe as endangered by Islamisation. In <i>Europe: Continent of Conspiracies</i> (pp. 54-75). Routledge.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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| <b>Session 17</b> | <b>Maritime Border controls (I)</b><br>Border management and migrant fatalities in the Mediterranean                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gazzotti, L. (2020). Deaths, borders, and the exception: Humanitarianism at the Spanish–Moroccan border. <i>American Behavioral Scientist</i>, 64(4), 408-435.</li> </ul>                                                                        |
| <b>Session 18</b> | <b>Maritime Border controls (II)</b><br>The case of Proactiva Open Arms (Spanish NGO devoted to search and rescue at sea)                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Session 19</b> | <b>Death in the Desert: EU's Border Externalisation (I)</b><br>Presentation of the documentary "Death in the Desert: EU's Border Externalization". The Bordering of the European Union in Niger | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redfish (2022). Death in the Desert: EU's Border Externalization. <a href="https://archive.org/details/death-in-the-desert-eus-border-externalisation">https://archive.org/details/death-in-the-desert-eus-border-externalisation</a></li> </ul> |
| <b>Session 20</b> | <b>Death in the Desert: EU's Border Externalisation (II)</b><br>In-class discussion                                                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andersson, R. (2022). Border walls, irregular migration and the co-optation of the border security playbook. <i>International Migration</i>, 60(4), 226-230.</li> </ul>                                                                          |
| <b>Session 21</b> | <b>Future border conflicts (I)</b><br>Borders in the outer space                                                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dodds, K. (2021). <i>Border Wars. The conflicts that will define our future</i>. Penguin Random House</li> <li>Klinger, J. M. (2021). Critical geopolitics of outer space. <i>Geopolitics</i>, 26(3), 661-665.</li> </ul>                        |
| <b>Session 22</b> | <b>Future border conflicts (II)</b><br>Border conflicts and climate change                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marshall, T. (2021). <i>The power of geography: Ten maps that reveal the future of our world</i> (pp. 327-356). Simon &amp; Schuster.</li> </ul>                                                                                                 |
| <b>Session 23</b> | Presentations of Research Papers and General Review                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Session 24</b> | Presentations of Research Papers and General Review                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Session 24</b> | Presentations of Research Papers and General Review                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## REQUIRED READINGS:

- Andersson, R. (2022). Border walls, irregular migration and the co-optation of the border security playbook. *International Migration*, 60(4), 226-230.
- Diener, A. C., & Hagen, J. (2012). *Borders: A very short introduction* (pp.1-18). Oxford University Press.
- Dodds, K. (2021). *Border Wars. The conflicts that will define our future*. Penguin Random House
- Ferrer-Gallardo, X., & Gabrielli, L. (2022). The Ceuta Border Peripeteia: Tasting the Externalities of EU Border Externalization. *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, 1-11.  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/08865655.2022.2048680?journalCode=rjbs20>
- García-Sanjuán, A. (2018). Rejecting al-Andalus, exalting the Reconquista: historical memory in contemporary Spain. *Journal of Medieval Iberian Studies*, 10(1), 127-145.
- Gazzotti, L. (2020). Deaths, borders, and the exception: Humanitarianism at the Spanish–Moroccan border. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 64(4), 408-435.
- Gualda, E. (2021). Metaphors of invasion: Imagining Europe as endangered by Islamisation. In *Europe: Continent of Conspiracies* (pp. 54-75). Routledge.
- Klinger, J. M. (2021). Critical geopolitics of outer space. *Geopolitics*, 26(3), 661-665.
- López-Sala, A., & Godenau, D. (2022). In private hands? the markets of migration control and the politics of outsourcing. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 48(7), 1610-1628.
- Lucassen, L. (2018). Peeling an onion: The “refugee crisis” from a historical perspective. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 41(3), 383-410.
- Marshall, T. (2021). *The power of geography: Ten maps that reveal the future of our world* (pp. 327-356). Simon & Schuster.
- Marshall, T. (2018). *Divided: Why We're Living in an Age of Walls* (pp.1-8). Elliott and Thompson.
- Panebianco, S. (2022). The EU and migration in the Mediterranean: EU borders’ control by proxy. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 48(6), 1398-1416.
- Popescu, G. (2011). *Bordering and ordering the twenty-first century: Understanding borders* (pp.-7-27). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- Schapiro, J.J. (November 27, 2019). What are borders for? *The New Yorker*. <https://www.newyorker.com/books/under-review/what-are-borders-for>
- Van Houtum, H., & Bueno Lacy, R. (2020). The autoimmunity of the EU’s deadly b/ordering regime; overcoming its paradoxical paper, iron and camp borders. *Geopolitics*, 25(3), 706-733.

## REQUIRED FILM VIEWINGS:

- Redfish (2022). Death in the Desert: EU’s Border Externalization. <https://archive.org/details/death-in-the-desert-eus-border-externalisation>
- The New Yorker (2016). The Journey from Syria. <https://www.newyorker.com/topics/the-journey-from-syria-documentary>

## RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Dodds, K. (2021). *Border Wars. The conflicts that will define our future*. Penguin Random House
- Ferrer-Gallardo, X., & Albet-Mas, A. (2016). EU-Limboscapes: Ceuta and the proliferation of migrant detention spaces across the European Union. *European Urban and Regional Studies*, 23(3), 527-530.
- Jones, R. (2016). *Violent borders: Refugees and the right to move*. Verso Books.
- Van Houtum, H. (2005). The geopolitics of borders and boundaries. *Geopolitics*, 10(4), 672-679.