

TRAVEL SCHEDULE (subject to change)

- March 10:** Fly from New York City to El Paso. View of Mexico from the hilltops above the city to gain an understanding of the fluidity of the geographic connection of the two countries. Welcome dinner at Carlos and Mickey's Mexican restaurant.
- March 11:** Walking tour with historian and author David Remo; visit to Annunciation House, a migrant shelter that takes in hundreds of undocumented migrants a week.
- March 12:** Border Patrol ride-along; evening mural walk and lecture led by artist and Chicano activist Cimi Alvarado.
- March 13:** Discussion with attorney Carlos Spector about his work seeking asylum for the most vulnerable undocumented citizens; meeting with a grass-roots advocacy group of asylum seekers.
- March 14:** Sunrise hike up Mount Cristo Rey, viewing both countries from the summit; radios, El Paso; drive to Rio Rico along the border; lecture by author Todd Miller in Tucson, Arizona.
- March 15:** A day in Tucson, at the courthouse for deportation hearings and with hand artist Gabriela Galup.
- March 16:** Visit to the Kino Border Initiative in Nogales, Arizona; meeting with social worker Maria Conrad who works in Nogales, Mexico, with recently deported individuals; walk in the desert along a migrant trail in Rio Rico.
- March 17:** Drive from Rio Rico to Tucson; fly to New York City.



TEXAS TO ARIZONA

Travel Seminar

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

About costs and travel logistics:
Off-Campus Study and Exchanges
Starbuck Center 202, 518-580-5355
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About course content and academic requirements:

Prof. Diana Barnes
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or

Prof. María Lander
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About financial aid:
Financial Aid Office
Starbuck Center 101, 518-580-5750
fnaid@skidmore.edu

SKIDMORE
C O L L E G E
CREATIVE THOUGHT TRAVELS

OCSE 2017-8

TRAVEL SEMINAR

TEXAS TO ARIZONA

"Experience Life on the Line"
1-credit, 200-level travel seminar (TX 200A)
to Texas and Arizona
March 10-17, 2018

TRAVEL SEMINAR

Texas to Arizona



WHY THE BORDER?

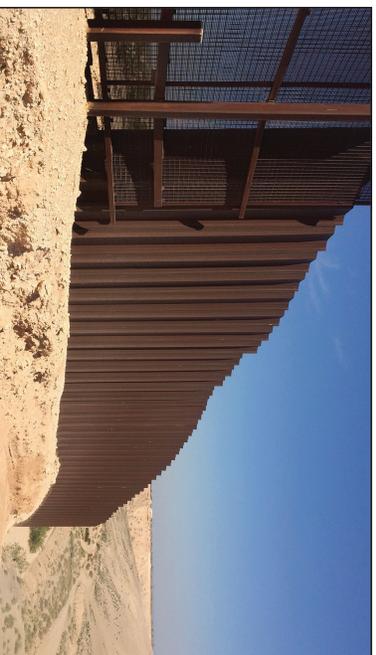
The 2,000-mile division between the United States and Mexico is a place of intense contrasts that must be experienced personally to begin to understand what it can reveal about power and vulnerability in economics and politics.

The borderlands are at once a place of encounter and separation, a paradox manifested by a wall that keeps people in and keeps people out. We will witness firsthand the struggles of identity on the border as we examine the way that decisions made thousands of miles from the border directly impact the residents on either side of it. As we travel along the border through the desert, we will observe the consequences of the economics of border security, addiction, and immigration laws.

This “Experience Life on the Line” seminar (TX 200A) and its spring 2018 companion course “Life on the Line: Evolving Identity Formation on the US-Mexico Border” (IA 251) also draw connections between the border and Upstate New York, considering labor/industry needs and increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement authority. Students prepare for this journey with the on-campus course, which presents a clear picture of the way politics affect the daily lives of border residents in both countries.

The travel seminar links theory with reality and brings history to life. In the classroom, for example, we read about the Bowie High School lawsuit that kicked off the hyper-strengthening of the border wall near El Paso, Texas, and led to the fortified wall we know today that separates California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, from Mexico’s counter states; and in our travels, we will visit Bowie High School’s barrio with muralist and graffiti artist Crni Alvarado.

In El Paso, we will climb to the top of a mountain at sunrise to see where the wall ends and the two countries become inseparable. We will also visit with an asylum attorney, activists, and asylum seekers. In Tucson we will attend deportation hearings and meet with attorneys who dedicate their lives to advocacy for undocumented children and adults being held in the private prison system in nearby Eloy and Florence.



FACULTY DIRECTORS

Diana M. Barnes teaches Spanish language and literature and US/Mexico border studies in the departments of World Languages and Literatures and International Affairs. Professor Barnes holds a Masters in Spanish from Washington State University and a PhD in Spanish literature from SUNY-Albany. For the past 15 years Professor Barnes has traveled extensively in the US/Mexico border region, researching and writing about the impact and fallout from the North American Free Trade Agreement on the Mexican side of the border. At Skidmore, students in her border studies class learn about the effects of immigration legislation on labor and human rights, as well as the economics of addiction and the geopolitics of the wall that divides the two countries.

Marta F. Lander teaches Spanish and chairs the Department of World Languages and Literatures. An expert in Latin American contemporary narrative, she has published articles about literary representations of drug trafficking in Mexico and Colombia in journals such as *Revista Iberoamericana*, *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*, and *Discourse*. She also authored the critical edition of Carlos Fuentes, *Gringo viejo*, a recreation of Ambrose Bierce’s story of an “old gringo” who dared to cross the border during the Mexican Revolution. Professor Lander teaches courses that explore the cultures surrounding the drug business in Latin America and the US.

PREREQUISITES

To join the travel seminar, students must be enrolled in the 3-credit on-campus course “Life on the Line: Evolving Identity Formation on the US-Mexico Border” (IA 251) or have completed it in a previous semester, or they must have completed the fall 2015 Scribner Seminar “Chaos Finds a Voice: The Politics of Identity in the US-Mexico Borderlands.”

COSTS

The anticipated fee is \$2,750 (subject to fluctuation). This includes airfare from New York City to El Paso, three meals a day, accommodations (double occupancy), activities and ground transportation, airfare from Tucson to New York City, Skidmore faculty on site, and the support of Skidmore’s OCSE. The fee does not include personal expenses. Financial aid is available for eligible students.

APPLY

Deadline for applications is Friday, October 27, 2017. Applications are available at skidmore.edu/ocse. An interview with Professor Barnes will also be part of the application process. At time of application, a \$250 deposit is required; it will be applied toward the program fee, or it will be refunded for those not accepted to the program.

