Summer Session II

LTEN 149 – Topics: English-Language Lit
“Racialized Violence, Abject Space: The (Re)production of the U.S.-Mexico Border(lands)”

Instructor: Bernadine Hernández

Schedule: TuTh 200p-450p
Location: WLH 2110

In this course we will utilize a historical and structural framework to investigate the production of the US-Mexico border. We will start our investigation in the nineteenth-century and move to our global age to examine how the process of racialization and technologies such as gender and sexuality inform the constantly shifting ideologies of the border. Starting in the nineteenth century, we will look at legal documents and historical novels during US Expansion and Manifest Destiny in the wake of empire to not only examine the production of the border, but also examine how the logics of settler colonialism and the construction of blackness are a haunting presence in the invention of “Mexican America”. We will be focusing on “invention” and “construction” as a historical process. Some questions we will be asking are: How do the legacies of racial, gender, sexual, and class differentiation inform or (re) produce the geopolitical space of the border within U.S. Empire and Imperialism? How do the fiction, short stories, letters, films, and theories undermine and challenge conventional histories of citizenship, US history, and shifting borders? In constructing a historical and structural framework of the border, we will move to contemporary discussions of how the border becomes an abject and fungible space in our current global age. Focusing on gender, sexuality, and the border, we will look at films by Lourdes Portillo Senorita Extraviada (2001), Funari and De La Torres Maquiapolis (2006), and the new TV series The Bridge (2013). Requirements: active participation and attendance, reading responses, and short final paper.