

Brief Course Outline

Course Title:**Place and Movement****Course Number and Section**

GSI

4013F 550

Instructor Name(s):

Masaya Llavaneras Blanco

Instructor Email(s):

mllavane@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Place and movement are central aspects of our human experience. We live in, experience and “make” places through everyday practices. Movement is also an essential aspect of our livelihoods, cultural and political practices. Inasmuch as place and movement are inherent to our existence, they are also deeply embedded in global relations of power that find their expression in the existence of borders.

Borders are a central to how to imagine “the global”. They shape us even before we are aware of their existence. Even if we are not always aware of their everyday functions, transnational borders act as geopolitical demarcations of belonging and responsibility and exist at the very heart of global power relations. Where we are born, the religions or forms of faith that we are born into, our gender and sexual orientation, as well as other markers such as race and class determine our relationship with borders and even how much we think about them. Depending on our social positions, the same geopolitical demarcation may appear seamless or unsurmountable.

This course is an opportunity to “unveil” borders, examining some of the mechanisms in which they operate. We will look at borders from a transdisciplinary lens, reading and discussing the works of geographers, anthropologists, sociologists, political scientists, and indigenous thinkers. Together we will explore how borders relate to global relations of power, paying specific attention to how they are manifest in territory and space, in legal systems and categories, that ultimately seek to govern mobility and belonging.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

A strong analytical basis to engage with discussions in border studies, migration studies and human mobilities.

Refined writing and communication skills for academic and non-academic audiences.

New skills in spatial cartographic analysis.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Most sources will be available digitally with the exception of one book, which is recommended that students purchase:

Vives, L. (2025). The gates of the sea: Migration and rescue at the edges of Europe. Fernwood

Publishing.

The purchase of the following book is recommended but optional:

Delaney, D. (2005). Territory: a short introduction. Malden, MA : Blackwell Pub.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Active Participation	Throughout the term	10
2 Critical Reflections	Througout the term	30
2 Group Discussion Guidance (Group project)	Througout the term	15
Borderland Story Map - Proposal Workshop		15
Borderland Story Map	December	30

Friday, August 14, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$000.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.