

Title of BIP: UNITA Borders

General information

Objectives and Description:

The UNITA Borders BIP focuses on the cultural, social and political importance of borders in the context of the important transformations that the world is currently witnessing.

Borders have multiple roles, as their spatial, political and administrative functions also have important cultural, linguistic and social implications. As areas of contact and exchange between different nations and cultures, borders can also be the foci of discriminatory practices of exclusion, control and containment, for example by blocking or slowing down immigration, or indeed causing conflict between nations. The UNITA Borders BIP, entirely held in English, has an interdisciplinary approach to borders. Its classes will discuss borders from multiple angles, including social and historical factors (e.g. immigration), the cultural, geographical and political importance of borders, the building of barriers or walls to prevent the free movement of people, and the elements of social cohesion as well as fracture generated in, and because of, border areas. In line with the UNITA mission, a special focus of the UNITA Borders BIP is the analysis of the role of borders in the context of the European Union. A number of recent events, including the Brexit referendum in 2016, the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, has led to questioning the stability of the international order, all the while putting the EU's open and borderless space of exchange between different nations and communities under stress.

Methods and outcomes:

The UNITA Borders BIP is very appealing for students from several areas in Social Sciences and Humanities, including Political Science, Sociology, Law, Modern Languages, Geopolitics, International Relations, Geography, Human Geography, Area Studies, and History, but will be of interest to other areas as well, as its themes may also suit the interests, academic profile and background of non-specialists. Given its international and interdisciplinary nature, the UNITA Borders BIP aims to foster intercultural and interlinguistic understanding, comprehension and dialogue between students from different universities and nationalities on a set of issues which concerns the lives of all communities at both (inter)national and socio-cultural level.

Field of Education:

Target audience / Participants profile: Undergraduates and MA students

No of ECTS issued: 3

Language of instruction and requirements: English: the minimum requirement to apply is English language Level B1. If the number of applications is higher than the available places, priority will be based on the level of language proficiency. Participants must be students in any area of Social Sciences and Humanities. Applications from students from different scientific areas will be considered, but priority will be given to students in Social Sciences and Humanities.

Dates for physical activity: 15-19 July 2024

Location of physical activity: Department of Cultures, Politics and Society, Lungo Dora Siena 100, University of Turin, Turin 10153, Italy.

Dates for virtual component: 12 & 22 July 2024

Virtual Component Description:

2 online synchronous meetings.

Friday 12 July, morning: online meetings, introduction to the course, general welcome

Monday 22 July: final online meeting: discussion and feedback

Organizing Board

Receiving/Host university:

University of Turin, Italy (massimiliano.demata@unito.it in cc unita.students@unito.it)

Sending/Partner universities:

Miguel-Angel Benitez-Castro (Universidad de Zaragoza)
 Emma Bell (Université Savoie Mont Blanc)
 Anna Casaglia (Università di Trento)
 Chiara Brambilla (Università di Bergamo)
 Anne-Laure Amilhat Szary (Université Grenoble-Alpes)
 Astrid Fellner (Universität des Saarlandes)
 Jussi P. Laine (University of Eastern Finland)
 Daniel Meier (Sciences Po Grenoble)
 Eva Nossem (Universität des Saarlandes)
 Francesca Pisano (Danish Refugee Council)
 Ernesto Calogero Sferrazza Papa (Università di Roma "La Sapienza")
 Elisabeth Vallet (University of Quebec at Montreal, Canada)

Detailed programme

1. Planned activities during virtual component:

Friday 12 July, morning: online meetings, introduction to the course, general welcome
 Monday 22 July: final online meeting: discussion and feedback

2. Planned activities during physical component:

Sunday 14 July, afternoon: Welcome reception, Olimpia Residence
 Monday 15 July, morning and afternoon: classes
 Tuesday 16 July, morning and afternoon: classes
 Wednesday 17 July, morning: classes
 Wednesday 17 July, afternoon: free
 Thursday 18 July, morning and afternoon: classes
 Friday 19 July, morning: classes
 Friday 19 July, afternoon: final exam

Application procedure

fill in application form available here: *to be generated later*

deadline: Nominations should be sent before 30/05/2024.