The border Mexico – United States has unique characteristics, that make having a minimal knowledge of the region, indispensable for understanding the rest of Latin America better.

The student will have relevant elements, in order to analyze diverse economic, political, social and cultural border phenomena, taking Tijuana as an example, which is without question the most important border city on the Mexican side of the US-Mexico border. Tijuana, one of Mexico’s larger city with and economy based on manufacture, tourism and commercial business, is a destination for thousands of Mexican migrants and people from all over the world. In Addition, it was attractive to millions of tourists who visit Tijuana every year, until the global economic crisis of 2008, collapsed the tourist industry. However, in recent years tourists slowly start returning to the city. Tijuana’s city
slogan was “Tijuana, la ciudad mas visitada del mundo” (“Tijuana, the world’s most visited city in the world”). Violence and organized crime have deep roots, and the city is highly publicized for such activity.

Facing Latin America, Tijuana is the nearest point with SDSU campus. Considering this, except the first class, a class at halfway through the semester and the last class, the course will take place in Tijuana. With this the student will have an exceptional opportunity, to be in direct contact with the Mexican Latin American culture, and at the same time cover the topics of course. Tijuana is the port of entry to Latin America. With a macro point of view, the Mexico – United States border courses, traditional emphasizes in: Migration, maquiladora industry, commercial business and enviromental issues. This course has a micro-perspective against other courses with a global emphasis, and includes material not commonly taught in any campuses on either side of the border. For example, prostitution related with female migration and the well known “tourist prostitution”. Indigenous migrants, human smugglers, red light district. Overall, this diverse subjects relating to “Mexico’s way of life”, Indians, migrants, prostitution, human smugglers, Jail system, Political Parties, among others subjects, could be irrelevant in the course, but as a whole, these topics are essential for an in-depth understanding for this complex “border region”.

From the social perspective the “border phenomenon”, will give the students the elements to integrate the border region, important for the analysis and evaluation by those interested in understanding Latin America.

The class will include both theory and practice, supplemented by presentations from invited guest, experts in the subject matter. The field trips to Mexico (Tijuana) will be schedule every week during the course. These are vital for attaining an on-site perspective of the subjects examined in class.

Requirements to participate:
In order to participate in this class, students must have a valid passport, passport card, or border crossing card. Students must attend the first class session and have enrolled in the Aztecs Abroad database successfully. Instructions on enrolling are located in Blackboard. Students who do not meet these requirements may be dropped from the course.

Students must purchase SDSU’s Foreign Travel Insurance. The cost is $60/semester. Students will be automatically enrolled in the insurance program once they complete the Aztecs Abroad application and the fee will be charged to their SDSU student account.

Questions regarding these requirements may be directed to Alana Rodriguez, Latin American Studies Coordinator, at alana.rodriguez@mail.sdsu.edu.
General Objectives
This is a course with Special conditions: it is a practical course, because most of the time is spent activities within the field. Developed the course in Tijuana, it provides students a unique opportunity to come into contact with a different culture and society. This course provides the student with a micro social, cultural and political vision of the Mexican border, having Tijuana as an example. At the end of the semester, it is expected that students will have knowledge and understanding of:
- The diversity of the subjects and their cultural practices,
- Realize the interrelationships between cultural and social dimensions,
- The social context of everyday life at the border (Tijuana)
- Elements to analyze the migration phenomenon
- Identify different urban contexts of the city
- Compare and contrast student culture, as a cultural reference, with a different culture: the Mexican border culture
- Being able to distance himself from ethnocentric positions and adopting a holistic, comparative and thoughtful insight into the study of the border Mexican reality
- Foster the capacity for tolerance and respect for stimulating social commitment.

Skill Objectives
The course aims to develop the ability of students in the critical observation of another culture and the environment in which it develops, together with Strengthen their critical and analysis skills.

Grading
Halfway through the course (October 13), the student will turn in a paper with his/her comments and thoughts regarding one of the subjects examine up to that point in the class. This work should consist of between six and eight pages. At the end of the course (December 8), an essay will be due on topic of the student's choosing and/or one of the topics taken up during the class, taking Tijuana as reference. The work should consist of between six and eight typewritten pages.
The student shall prepare two essays on two of the book you choose (8 to 10 pages) of the above list of books:
(1) To be turn in October 27.
(2) To be turn at the end of the course December 8.

Grades are based on:
1. Attendance to classes; 2 Participation in class with your comments, analysis, observations, etcetera; 3. Delivery of the essays required for the course; 4. Halfway the course and final class, participation of each student with comments on one of the books and/or topics of the course.
**September 1 Thursday**
Introduction. The Border, the Mexican Perspective.
In the second part of the class, invited guest human rights activist Adriana Jasso, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

**September 8 Thursday** *
Migration. Visit the immigration station, interview with deported migrants and Coordinator and officials of Beta Group (agency of the Federal Ministry of the Interior).
Round table discussion. Consult videos Link: http://www.vice.com/es_mx/Fringes/el-purgatorio-de-los-deportados
And http://youtu.be/PH9KnTP6wj0
Newspaper articles related the topic:
La Jornada, El canal, de Tijuana, destino para miles de ...
www.jornada.unam.mx/2014/12/07/politica/017n1pol

**September 15 Thursday** **
Migration. Round table discussion with “coyotes” (human smugglers). We never listen to immigration perspective phenomenon from these illegal actors.

**September 22 Thursday** *
Migrant women at the border and prostitution. Meeting with the Association of Free Women "Maria Magdalenas" (Organizacion Vanguardia de Mujeres Libres ‘Maria Magdalena’, A.C.) (Organization of sex workers). Round table discussion.

**September 29 Thursday***
Municipal Jail. Meeting with directors, visit to the prison, to learn about the system of stem of municipal jails and meeting with a municipal judge to learn from the municipal justice system.

**October 6 Thursday**
Universidad Autonoma de Baja California (State University). Round table discussion with students of the faculty of tourism, on various topics of the border (culture, society, tourism, etc.)
**October 13 Thursday**
Class at San Diego State University, Comments, questions and analysis on the topics covered so far in class. Turn in essay (6 to 8 pages) with comments and thoughts regarding on the subjects examined up to that point in class and written in your essays.

**October 20 Thursday**
City Mayor Jorge Astiazaran. The city its challenges, problems and solutions. Round table discussion (City Hall) with Tijuana Mayor Jorge Astiazaran. If the mayor is not available for scheduling reasons, another top official will attend class.

**October 27 Thursday**
Turn in essay on a book you choose (8 to 10 pages)

**November 3 Thursday**
Indian Migrants. Visit to the community of Mixteco Indians in Lomas Taurinas neighborhood. Mexico is a country with a ethno-linguistic diversity, and the border has been enriched with the arrival of Indians from south of the country. We will have the opportunity to see the see the end of the Fiesta de los Muertos which starts on October 31 – Nov 2.

**November 10 Thursday**
Consult video Link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3POojdgZFd8 (yo no pedi ser como soy PTE 1)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAny9S0G5ds (Yo no pedí ser como soy PTE 2)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIBWKG2ZA_c (Mexican LGBT seeking political asylum in the US)

**November 17 Thursday**

**November 23, 24, 25 – Thanksgiving Break**

**December 1 Thursday**
Tour Red-Light District. Tijuana Important area to understand the immigration phenomenon process, social and economic dynamics of the city.

**December 8 Thursday**
Class in SDSU. Final conclusions. Comments from each students. Turn in essay on a subject of your choosing and/or one of the subjects taken up in class, taking the border as a reference (6 to 8 pages); and turn in an essay on one of the books you choose (8 to 10 pages).

* No cameras, No tape recorders
** No cameras, No tape recorders
*** No cameras, No tape recorders

Disability Statements
“If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Service at (619-594-6473). To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Service as soon as possible.”