



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

TALES FROM THE
CHIHUAHUAN DESERT:
A Virtual NEH Summer Institute
July 18 - Aug. 1, 2021 via Zoom

May 10, 2021



TALES FROM THE
CHIHUAHUAN DESERT:
A NEH Summer Institute

Guide for Summer Scholars

[Tales from the Chihuahuan Desert:](#)

Borderlands Narratives about Identity and Binationalism

National Endowment for the Humanities

A Summer *Virtual* Institute for Secondary School Teachers (Grades 6th – 12th)

Sponsored by The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)

Department of History

in collaboration with the

Center for Inter-American and Border Studies (CIBS)

and Institute of Oral History (IOH)

July 18th – August 1st, 2021 (via Zoom)

Directors

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School of Graduate and Professional Studies

borderlandsnarratives@utep.edu



May 10, 2021

5 May 2021

Dear UTEP NEH 2021 Summer Scholars:

Welcome to our [Summer Virtual Institute for School Teachers](#) (grades 6th – 12th) named ***Tales from the Chihuahuan Desert: Borderland Narratives about Identity and Binationalism***. We are excited about your interest in our Institute and that we will meet soon via Zoom.

The Institute is sponsored by the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) (NEH) and will be held via Zoom through the [The University of Texas at El Paso \(El Paso, Texas\)](#).

The Institute dates are **July 18th – August 1st, 2021**. A stipend (taxable) will be provided to each Summer Scholar (teacher, participant).

We developed ***Tales from the Chihuahuan Desert*** in an effort to reframe our national discourse about the ways in which we see and talk about the U.S.–México borderlands and its binational populations.

In the *Guide for Summer Scholars* we prepared, we provide answers for some questions as you begin planning for your participation in the Institute. There are **electronic payroll e-forms** to complete **before May 30th, 2021**. Instructions will be sent via email from our business administrator.

We look forward to your participation and contributions. Indeed, we anticipate shared professional learning and growth across the disciplines and an engaging, positive experience with lifelong colleagues and friendships in the making. ***¡Bienvenidos!***

Sincerely,

Drs. Ignacio Martínez and R. Joseph Rodríguez, Institute Directors

The University of Texas at El Paso

El Paso, Texas, USA

Chihuahuan Desert

borderlandsnarratives@utep.edu

<http://borderlandsnarratives.utep.edu>

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TRAVELING TO EL PASO (ELP)

The Summer Scholars (teachers, participants) **will NOT** be traveling to El Paso, since this will be a Summer Virtual Institute via Zoom.

Summer Virtual Institute Launch Date: Sunday, July 18th, 2021, at 5:30 PM.

Plan NOW for the following:

1. All of the Summer Virtual Institute will be held on **Mountain Time (MT)**, since El Paso is on Mountain Time.
2. We have a welcome scheduled to begin promptly on **Sunday afternoon, July 18th, 2021, at 5:30 PM (MT)** via Zoom.
3. Adjust your alarms and clocks to **Mountain Time** for all Summer Virtual Institute programming via Zoom for two weeks.

STIPENDS AND PAYROLL E-FORMS

Summer Scholars selected to participate in our two-week project will receive a stipend of **\$2,200** (subject to taxes).

Stipends are intended to help cover childcare, technology needs, and any additional resources.

Participants who cannot, or choose not to complete the full tenure of the Summer Institute—including attendance, participation, and e-portfolio—will receive a reduced stipend. As such, Institute participants are required to actively participate in all Institute meetings, planned programming, and e-portfolio requirements.

Summer Scholars must devote their full attention to the Institute and not engage in outside professional activities unrelated to the Institute's goals and activities.

The payroll e-forms must be fully completed to receive stipend payment. You will receive these e-forms via an e-message, and you will be required to return them to Diana Gonzalez, our Institute administrator before May 30th, 2021.

The stipend will be paid in two installments. One of these partial payments will be during the Institute, pending receipt and processing of your payroll documents. (It is important to submit these e-forms with correct documentation for processing and to avoid delays. Plan in advance for these documents to be checked for completion.)

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CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEUs)

For a fee, UTEP will offer a number of Continuing Education Units (CEUs), which Summer Scholars can earn through participation in the Institute and by paying a fee to the [UTEP Extended University](#). This will be an out-of-pocket expense for each Summer Scholar who is seeking CEUs.

COLLABORATION AND EXPECTATIONS

Collaboration is essential. We are stronger in our teaching, research, and leadership through collaboration and cooperation. We will model cooperative and collaborative learning each day. We will work together to build more bridges of communication for teaching, learning, and fun.

Introduce yourself to the Summer Scholars soon. We will be requesting a recent photograph and a biographical note to add to our Institute home page.

Email addresses and other media are encouraged to communicate professionally and in a friendly, collaborative through various platforms in the months ahead.

Before and during the Institute, be mindful and maintain awareness as an educator, learner, listener, and presenter in the presence of our colleagues who will be Summer Scholars, faculty, lecturers, and Institute administrators and supporters.

A central part of the Institute experience is participation and the exchange of ideas. However, disagreements will arise, for which a high degree of respect for the ideas of others is expected from everyone.

Remain mindful and also compassionate and respectful with courteous treatment and regard for fellow scholars, university personnel, and community members. The concepts, themes, and topics under study can become debatable and political regardless of political affiliation or interests.

Each of us is responsible for following and upstanding the [Principles of Civility for NEH Seminars, Institutes, and Workshops](#).

Following the Principles will allow for a significant learning experience where diverse interests, ideas, and experiences will expand the scope and sum of knowledge. Some of the topics of

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discussion will be of a sensitive nature (politics, politics, sexuality, etc.) and may invoke individual experiences.

We will also visit sites with varying interpretations about the chronicled history. We will meet people who may have opposing political views. We are a community of scholars and as such we are expected to distinguish opinion from argument.

Thus, we will be nudged to think differently and to challenge ourselves and others about specific concepts, ideas, and perspectives we may hold that can directly influence our students' thinking and lives in the schools and communities where we work and live.

A mutual agreement about our responsibilities will occur our first two days of the Institute.

We have scheduled time for personal conversations to engage with the faculty and lecturers for your own professional growth and personal interests.

We will conduct a brief survey after a few days of the Institute. Based on feedback, count on the directors to:

- (1) make any adjustment where possible,
- (2) change course as needed, and
- (3) inform you if policies have our hands tied as directors.

Two additional surveys will be completed: a handwritten one the last day of the Institute, and an additional one to be sent electronically, via your e-mail address, with a link in August 2021.

You are expected to attend every class meeting via virtual format. Exceptions will be made only in cases of illness or other major events.

BIG PICTURE: AN INSTITUTE DAY

Each class day will be guided by an **essential question** that will be answered by the Summer Scholars, faculty, and lecturers through the readings, artifacts, and field site visits (field trips).

Collaborative learning is our goal and practice. Your own understanding will be complemented by the **faculty and lecturers' expertise**.

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Summer Scholars will **work collaboratively** and will launch the conversation based on the readings at the beginning of either the morning or afternoon sessions.

Next, the faculty and lecturers will continue the **conversation on the theme and concepts** toward addressing the essential question of the day.

This format works well with the **ownership of concepts and interpretation of the readings** with expertise from scholars (faculty and lecturers) who are active researchers and educators in the discipline.

Each day will begin with a **reflection** on the previous day we experienced. The brief reflection will feature a story with media and images.

E-READINGS AND TECHNOLOGIES

All the e-readings will be posted electronically on the Institute web page. The readings will be downloadable as of June 30th.

FOUR books, which are required reading, will be shipped to you, via US Postal Service, in late May 2021. Be sure to provide a current and reliable address to receive a shipment of four books.

In an effort to be environmentally conscious and to cut down on paper printed and waste, we also encourage Summer Scholars to read any articles or essays on their computers or devices with limited printing.

It is advisable that use a reliable laptop or device for Zoom login and for completing any assignments. Make sure you have Wi-Fi access that is reliable.

PARTICIPATION: START (LOGIN) / END (LOGOUT) TIMES

All Summer Scholars must be logged in 10 minutes before the morning Start Time, which will be **8:30 AM (Mountain Time)**.

Summer Scholars will be in a space conducive to learning and with access to the books, Internet, readings, and their machine (iPad, laptop), camera, and microphone.

Summer Scholars must be prepared to use the require hardware, software, platforms, and tools with universal design and access.

Start Time (login)

Summer Scholars will be visible, ready, and active via Zoom login at 8:20 AM (Mountain Time) during the weekdays.

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End Time (logout)

The **synchronous** 2021 Summer Virtual Institute will have an End Time of 12:30 PM (Mountain Time) during the weekdays.

The **asynchronous afternoons** will be self-directed by the Summer Scholars (teachers) to design, research, and complete their E-Portfolio Projects, which can be either single-authored or cowritten.

Individual asynchronous work as well as any group work should be conducted in self-directed, afternoon sessions. Institute directors will remain accessible via either Zoom or Slack from 1:00 PM (Mountain Time) until 3:00 PM (Mountain Time).

Summer Scholars will have stop breaks, ranging from **5 to 15 minutes** and will be on Zoom less than four hours per day, across the two weeks of the institute.

In order to ensure that things run smoothly, it is important that you respond to email messages, phone calls, and voice messages from directors or university officials in a timely manner.

Once the Institute begins, we ask that you participate with an open mind. Ask questions. Consider various viewpoints. Permit doubt or skepticism, but lean toward learning and understanding.

E-PORTFOLIO PROJECTS

The E-Portfolio projects, which will be housed in a Web platform and named ***Tales from the Chihuahuan Desert Borderlands: An Archive***, will be jointly written lesson plans with a summary of what each Summer Scholar learned about a concept presented and that is most applicable in his or her individual secondary classroom, grades 6–12.

You may preview the 2017 and 2019 E-Portfolios at our [website](#).

Participants are invited to cowrite **one lesson or unit plan** **OR** cowrite (or single author) **one multimedia, interactive essay**, using materials from the Institute. A template will be provided, and the E-Portfolio must be completed to earn your full stipend.

Summer Scholars will use the resources on the project website along with resources and writings compiled through the E-Portfolio website to transform their Institute experience into an e-product.

All Summer Scholars will have three to four hours each day to work on the E-Portfolio with additional time available during the two-week period. You may begin thinking about an essential question and using the readings you received to begin brainstorming and planning.

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The E-Portfolio will be directly applicable to the Summer Scholars' teaching and for other teachers to adopt and use.

After the Institute, the Summer Scholars' individual E-Portfolio projects will be posted to UTEP *Tales from the Chihuahuan Desert Borderlands: An Archive*. Based on permissions, the e-portfolio based projects will be made available to Summer Scholars and interested teachers nationwide beyond the Institute period.

The E-Portfolio to be developed by the Summer Scholars will be managed on a platform in consultation with the UTEP Office of Academic Technologies and their Creative Studios team.

Steve Varela, the director the UTEP Academic Technologies, is a national leader in teacher professional learning and education. Steve's Creative Studios team will assist Summer Scholars in curating their E-Portfolios.

The team members will be present in the assigned laboratory during specific time periods, although it is the individual Summer Scholar's responsibility to develop the content of the lesson plans and to make sure the content corresponds to state or national standards in your discipline, content area, or subject.

DOCUMENTS TO COMPLETE: CHECKLIST WITH DUE DATES

The payroll e-forms for stipend payments will be sent to you via-email by **May 30th, 2021**.

Website: <http://borderlandsnarratives.utep.edu>

DUE	ITEM	SEND QUESTIONS & SUBMIT
April 30, 2021	Biographical Note and Headshot	borderlandsnarratives@utep.edu
May 30, 2021	UTEP Payroll E-Forms for Stipend	Business Administrator