This course examines processes of frontier colonization and the importance of the frontier in the mind of Americans. In the nineteenth and early twentieth century, from the North American West to South American Patagonia, countless regions were conquered and colonized by independent republics. Formerly autonomous regions and native peoples were forcefully brought into the orbit of expanding nation-states and the global economy. Special emphasis will be placed on the transformation of the North American West from frontier to “border wall.” Students will be required to write three short (one-page) response papers, a midterm essay, and a final project.