

**This Global Learning Community/First Year Seminar is a cross—campus collaboration between John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the University of Texas at El Paso to teach student to understand racialized spaces other than their own.**

**In this course, students grappled with issues of diversity and global understandings through use of three types of technologies: bi-weekly videoconferences, meant to extend the “borders” of the classroom, digital stories, and participation in a web-based (Web 2.0 platform) intercultural learning space.**

**What sorts of popular ideas exist about the U.S.-Mexico border?**



**How did UTEP students respond to these characterizations?**

“I would like to express that El Paso is a BEAUTIFUL city, and that the violence expressed in the videos is not completely accurate. I think that the media has not portrayed El Paso correctly due to the drug war in our neighbor city (Juarez).”

“I agree, El Paso is beautiful! The mountains especially! But I have to say the pictures and videos that were included in some of the videos are images I have NEVER seen in my 18 years of life. The pictures that were used are what take place in our neighbor city, Juarez. Here in El Paso I have yet to see that violence spill over, and hopefully it never will.”

**Assignment: Each group will create a 3-5 minute digital story that explains the way the U.S. - Mexico border is imagined by those who live in New York City. An assignment sheet and a complete explanation will be provided in class. Each group will upload their digital story to the NING website.**



**What sorts of popular ideas exist about New York City?**



**How did John Jay students respond to these characterizations?**

“They left out the major parts of what makes up New York. They left out the boroughs such as Queens, Bronx, and Brooklyn, and Staten Island etc. The UTEP students only focused on the positive points and the attractions of New York rather than the poverty.”

“I think the UTEP digital stories were nicely done but did not really capture the entire image of New York City. They mainly focused on the glamorous life of New York with the Broadway shows and bright lights.”