

MENLO  
BORDERLANDS



**EL PASO, TEXAS**

**Examining Immigration at the Border**

May 19-May 30, 2025



# Menlo Borderlands El Paso, Texas



## IN BRIEF

**Menlo Borderlands** aligns with the goals of Menlo Abroad, our global travel program: it aims to advance knowledge of self and others, connections to diverse and distant communities, the *distant other* in our midst, and community engagement. It also emphasizes transference of learned skills and knowledge to our home context so that students emerge with a better understanding of themselves and their world.<sup>1</sup>



***Borderlands: El Paso is offered in association with World Leadership Schools.***

**Dates: MTerm '25:** May 19-May 30, 2025

(Participants will be in Texas from May 21-27)

**Enrollment Limits:** 16 students

**Enrollment Eligibility:** Menlo students in grades 9-11. For medical questions or exemption requests contact the school nurse's office.

**Trip Leaders:** There will be two Menlo teacher/trip leaders: Upper School History Teacher Charles Hanson and Upper School History Teacher and Junior Class Dean Matthew Nelson. When we are in Texas, we will be joined by one or two instructors from World Leadership School.

**All-Inclusive Fee<sup>2</sup>:** \$3100. Financial aid is available for one Menlo sponsored trip for students on financial aid. Current financial aid recipients should contact Rose Garza regarding financial aid (rgarza@menloschool.org).

Borderlands service participation earns students 8 community engagement credits.

<sup>1</sup> Borderlands is an elective option for MTerm and is considered and assessed as an MTerm course.

<sup>2</sup> Fee includes all flights • hotel accommodation • all meals • all surface transportation • museum, park, and temple entrance fees • reading materials • administrative support 24/7 • The fee does not include trip cancellation insurance or expenses for petty cash expenditures (est. at \$100), or baggage fees.

**A Note About Cell Phones:** In order to maintain the integrity of Borderlands' immersive experience, students will relinquish their cell phones to trip leaders upon entry into the target area. Cell phones will be returned to students when they are in the airport awaiting the return flight home.



# Menlo Borderlands

## El Paso, Texas



### COURSE OVERVIEW

Borderlands, El Paso, is a deep dive into issues involving immigration. The program begins with two days on the Menlo campus, orienting, researching, and preparing for travel. The travel, the experiential part of the course, is designed to give students access to different perspectives and to provide them with a unique and humanizing view of immigration.

With the assistance of World Leadership School (WLS), we visit various local non-profit organizations around the border wall. Students will have a chance to see U.S. government agencies, including the U.S. Border Patrol, the Federal Court System, as well as non-profit and religious organizations working on behalf of migrant workers, undocumented immigrants, and asylum seekers. In this way, students get a first-hand glimpse into the complexities of immigration and the struggles of those working in this area. There is also a break for a hike at the nearby White Sand National Monument in New Mexico. Once we return to the Menlo campus, students share their findings with students on other Borderlands trips and prepare final projects for the Borderlands / MTerm Expo.



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# Menlo Borderlands

## El Paso, Texas



### ITINERARY

*(Note: Itinerary is subject to change.)*

#### Monday, May 19-Tuesday, May 20 – Menlo Campus

- Borderlands course overview
- Project guidelines
- Initial research and group activities
- Trip preparation

#### Wednesday, May 21 – Transit to El Paso, TX

- Morning flight to El Paso, TX
- Early afternoon arrival into El Paso airport
- Lunch in El Paso
- Visit to Hope Border Institute
- Community Orientation and Welcome Dinner with Border Servant Corps
- Stay at Holy Cross Retreat Center



#### Thursday, May 22 – El Paso

- Breakfast at Holy Cross Retreat Center
- Visit to Federal Immigration Court & Processing Center in Las Cruces
- Lunch and shopping in Old Mesilla
- Immigration 101 with Crystal Massey
- Learning Session: True Colors
- Dinner and stay at Holy Cross Retreat Center

#### Friday, May 23 – El Paso and White Sands National Monument

- Breakfast at Holy Cross Retreat Center
- Morning visit with Raices del Saber (Bilingual school)
- Lunch in downtown Las Cruces
- People & Policies with Marisol Diaz
- Dinner and stay at Holy Cross Retreat Center

#### Saturday, May 24 – El Paso

- Breakfast at Holy Cross Retreat Center
- Visit to the Mexico/US Border and meeting with Border Patrol agent
- Learning Session: Circle of Questions - BEARS
- Presentation, tour and community project with El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank
- Dinner and stay at Holy Cross Retreat Center



# Menlo Borderlands El Paso, Texas



## ITINERARY (Cont.)

*(Note: Itinerary is subject to change.)*

### Sunday, May 25 – El Paso

- Breakfast at Holy Cross Retreat Center
- Morning presentation and visit to Casa Vides/Annunciation House (Shelter for Immigrants & Asylum Seekers)
- Walking tour of downtown El Paso and picnic lunch at Chamizal National Memorial
- Community project at Border Servant Corps' Hospitality Center
- Dinner and stay at Holy Cross Retreat Center

### Monday, May 26 – El Paso

- Breakfast at Holy Cross Retreat Center
- Learning Session: Finding Your Inner Leader
- Storytelling and gorditas making with Carmen Hernández
- Afternoon visit and sunset hike at White Sands National Monument
- Dinner at White Sand National Monument
- Stay at Holy Cross Retreat Center

### Tuesday, May 27 – Transfer to SFO

- Breakfast at Holy Cross Retreat Center
- Candle Circle
- Afternoon departure from El Paso airport

### Wednesday, May 28-Friday, May 30 – Menlo Campus

- Conference
- Project instructions
- Project work
- MTerm / Borderlands Expo



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# Menlo Borderlands El Paso, Texas



## TIMELINE OF APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS

<b>January 10</b>	Announcement of Menlo Abroad and Borderlands programs at upper school assembly
<b>January 28</b>	Applications due
<b>February 5</b>	Participants notified
<b>February 11</b>	Forms and Payment due by 3:00 pm
<b>April 14, 6:00 pm</b>	Pre-departure information night (Spieker Theater) for enrolled students and their parents (meeting is mandatory for student and at least one parent)
<b>May 19, 9:00 am</b>	Borderlands El Paso begins on Menlo campus.
<b>May 21- May 27</b>	El Paso trip
<b>May 28 - May 29</b>	MTerm Borderlands: El Paso resumes on Menlo campus
<b>May 30</b>	Final Day - Bordlerlands / M Term Expo

<sup>4</sup> Students must attend the final day to receive full credit for the course. The time and nature of the celebration is to be determined.

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# Menlo Borderlands El Paso, Texas



## BORDERLANDS AND MENLO ABROAD ASPIRATIONS

1. Knowledge and Global Competency <sup>5</sup>: Borderlands and Menlo Abroad programs advance students' self-knowledge and global competencies, including intercultural capabilities, historical perspectives, and attentiveness to diversity. Through direct experience, students develop awareness of global systems and issues impacting host communities.
2. Dispositions of Global Engagement <sup>6</sup>: Borderlands and Menlo Abroad programs cultivate internationally minded students who recognize their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet and strive to create a better and more peaceful world. Among the many positive dispositions they develop are agency, leadership, confidence, empathy, compassion, humility, feelings of interconnection, and respect.
3. Relationships: Borderlands and Menlo Abroad programs build sustaining relationships between students and diverse, underserved communities and individuals through shared common experiences of everyday life.
4. Community Engagement: Borderlands and Menlo Abroad programs contribute to solutions based on mutually beneficial work, apprenticeship, or study, activities that support students' knowledge and appreciation for local cultures and the challenges they face.
5. Transference: Borderlands and Menlo Abroad programs generate sustaining interest and connections with Menlo curricula and programs.

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<sup>5</sup> *Global competency* includes the ability to investigate the world beyond the immediate environment, the recognition of one's own and other perspectives, and the ability to communicate ideas effectively with diverse audiences.

<sup>6</sup> By *Global engagement*, we mean the dispositions necessary to be connected and of service to others, including those beyond national borders.





# Menlo Borderlands El Paso, Texas



## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The program is being offered by Menlo School in conjunction with World Leadership School. In cases of programs offered in conjunction with other organizations, participants are required to complete forms, registration, waivers, and medical forms provided by both Menlo School and the third-party organization.

**By February 11:** To secure a place in the program each of the following must be submitted.

1. A check payment payable to Menlo School for **\$3100**. Financial aid recipients will be contacted by the financial aid with a revised program fee.
2. Completed and signed *Parent Permission and Waiver, Medical Release, Emergency and Medical Information Form - Overnight*
3. Completed and signed *Waiver and Release for Program within the United States*
4. Completed and signed Menlo School *Trip Contract*
5. Third party organization forms, waiver and release.

**By April 14:** Any remaining and required forms.

Equipment lists, air travel instructions, and further information about the program will be provided subsequently.

Our intention is to address the goals and curricular elements listed in the program description, but all participants are advised that course itineraries will likely change to incorporate participant goals and interests, to adjust to the health of members of the group, or in response to weather conditions, problems with transportation, political or social unrest or other unforeseen problems. Regardless of such changes, we will always work to structure and implement the course so that it stays true to the original intent.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

Given the uncertainty of conditions at the current time, Menlo encourages participants to consider the purchase of a travel insurance or trip cancellation insurance policy for the Borderlands trip. Check your primary medical insurance provider to assure your child will have medical coverage while traveling. If that is in question, travel insurance including medical coverage should be purchased.

If the participant is on financial aid, travel insurance purchases for this trip will be reimbursed at the rate of financial aid.

You might consider purchasing a travel insurance package through an organization such as InsureMyTrip to provide some financial protection against unforeseen circumstances or withdrawal. Menlo makes no recommendation regarding these options: Please read all policies carefully to ensure that your needs are met.

**CANCELED TRIPS:** A full refund will be made for canceled trips that arise out of insufficient registration, though Menlo is not responsible for other costs incurred by the student or family preparing for the trip. For trips canceled due to any other circumstance that is beyond Menlo's control, Menlo will refund all recoupable tuition. If Menlo decides to cancel the trip at its own discretion, Menlo will fully refund participants' payments.

**REFUND POLICY:** If Menlo does not cancel the trip but a participant chooses to withdraw, the participant must inform the Global Programs Director ([pbrown@menloschool.org](mailto:pbrown@menloschool.org)) and the Program Director of ([erin@worldleadershipschool.com](mailto:erin@worldleadershipschool.com)) in an email communication. Menlo will refund recoupable fees according to the following schedule: By 3/18, 50% refund. No refunds will be given for withdrawal after 3/18 or for participants departing the trip early.\*

**MEDICAL AND EVACUATION EXPENSES:** It is the responsibility of the student and the student's family to understand the limits of any medical and evacuation policy, and to provide up-front payment of emergency services when required.

**CELL PHONES:** In order to maintain the integrity of the immersive experience, students will relinquish their cell phones to trip leaders upon entry into the target area. Cell phones will be returned to students when they are in the airport awaiting the return flight home.

**VIOLATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS:** If a participant acts in a way that is injurious to himself or herself, people of the host community, or other participants on the trip, or generally conducts himself or herself in a way that is disruptive to the trip, we reserve the right to send the participant home without refund or to require parental pickup at the travel site. Underage use of alcohol and the use of illegal drugs are cause for dismissal. Participants sent home early or who choose to return for any reason, including sickness, personal emergencies or injury, will be responsible for all medical costs and will absorb travel and related costs associated with an unscheduled departure.

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\*Recoupable fees do not include airline fees and deposits Menlo pays to travel organization on the student's behalf.

**Please contact Peter Brown with any questions at 650.330.2001 ext. 2238 or email [pbrown@menloschool.org](mailto:pbrown@menloschool.org).**

READ THIS DESCRIPTION CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING FORMS.