

BORDER CROSSINGS

ARTS ONE 2025–2026

What are the boundaries that give shape and meaning to our lives? Who gets to draw, imagine, or impose these boundaries, and who is—or is not—allowed to move across them?

The works we engage with will enable us to consider how these questions have been asked and answered across a range of historical periods and social contexts. The borders we explore and cross together will sometimes be geographic in nature, but we will also consider other kinds of borders that give shape to bodies and minds across various kinds of human knowing: poems, plays, memoirs, novels, films, philosophical and political tracts, among others. We will encounter a range of wanderers, explorers, travelers, and guides, some who left pathways for others to trace, and others who warned people from following in their steps. The borders and boundaries we map will be both real and imagined—between the known and the unknown, life and death, natural and supernatural, as well as across space and time.

Works to be discussed:

Homer	<i>Odyssey</i>
Plato	<i>Republic</i>
Mandeville	<i>Book of Marvels and Travels</i>
More	<i>Utopia</i>
Galileo	Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina
Brecht	<i>Life of Galileo</i>
Shakespeare	<i>Othello</i>
Hobbes	<i>Leviathan</i>
Rousseau	<i>A Discourse on Inequality</i>
Wollstonecraft	<i>A Short Residence in Sweden</i>
Equiano	<i>The Interesting Narrative</i>
Hoffmann	“The Sandman”
Melville	<i>Typee: A Peep at Polynesian Life</i>
Dostoevsky	<i>Crime and Punishment</i>
Marx/Engels	<i>Communist Manifesto</i>
Baudelaire	<i>The Salon of 1859</i>
Nietzsche	<i>Genealogy of Morality</i>
Freud	“The Uncanny”
Woolf	<i>Orlando</i>
Hitchcock	<i>Vertigo</i>
Le Guin	<i>The Dispossessed</i>
Althusser	“Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses”
McCarthy	<i>All the Pretty Horses</i>
Lynch	<i>Mulholland Drive</i>
Sinnerbrink	“Cinematic Ideas, on David Lynch’s <i>Mulholland Drive</i> ”
Bechdel	<i>Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic</i>
Pope	<i>Papers, Please</i>