This course introduces students to frontier and borderlands studies by examining the development and transformation of the southern mountains. The mountains and their hinterlands have long been at the center of power struggles for land and other natural resources. These resources were hotly contested by indigenous and nonindigenous groups in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and they fueled the developing American economy in the nineteenth and twentieth. This course highlights the contributions of non-elite, non-white, and non-male people in shaping the development of the United States. The course begins with the migration of the first humans to North America and concludes with Emancipation and Reconstruction in the 1860s and 70s.