

Course title:	Europe, Migration, Refugees
Instructor:	Duygu Gürsel
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Language of instruction:	English
Contact hours:	48 (6 per day)
ECTS credits:	5
Prerequisites:	Students should be able to speak and read English at the upper intermediate level (B2) or higher. No prior knowledge is required but the willingness to think beyond the usual framings on migration.

Course description

In the last decade, EU experienced unprecedented migration movements. EU's response has been shaped by distinguishing between "deserving refugees" and "undeserving economic migrants" and has oscillated between humanitarian and securitarian approaches. Whereas the recent developments on the EU borders such as pushbacks, the containment of migrants in the hotspots signalize the abandonment of humanitarian approach, the quick and less bureaucratic protection of Ukrainian refugees demonstrates more of a selective humanitarian approach.

As the visibility of migration increases in various ways, certain migrants are often represented and imagined as a homogenous mass of 'the other'. This leads to a problematic understanding of migration as something to be controlled and governed from a top-down perspective alone. But the respective processes of negotiation on migration policy, within and across the outer borders of the Union, take place not only between the official institutions of nation-states, but on all scales of European populations. They also take place from a bottom-up perspective in the centers and at the margins of societies alike.

Departing from diverse theories of migration, we will gain an overview of EU-level migration polity and recent migration- and border-management policies. We will analyze the conflicts, debates and discourses around the last years of increased immigration.

Scaling down, we will engage with the local authorities' perspective in Berlin. Diving deeper down we will start to change perspective: How do local activists develop and implement their own ways of welcoming migrants? Where do migrants work and how are they represented in trade unions? Finally, focusing on the history of migrant struggles in Berlin, we will encounter migrants' viewpoints, which reach beyond the usual framings of migrants as 'passive victim' or as a threat. We will encounter viewpoints on the conflicts, compromises, resistances, solidarity and social transformation shaped by recent migration movements to Europe.

Student profile

This course is designed for all students having a personal, professional or political personal interest in a deeper and thus more differentiated understanding of transnational migration.

Course requirements

The basic conditions for the course are regular attendance, participation in discussions and a close reading of the literature provided.

- In one page of continuous text, every course-day's core discussions and conclusions are to be summarized and questions regarding the texts for the following session formulated, in preparation for the next sessions.
- Each student is required one time to prepare an input-presentation of a text in class (max. 15 min.).
- The final examination (90 min.) will consist of answering 2-3 leading questions regarding the contents of the seminar in continuous text.

Required language skills

The language of instruction is English. Language proficiency on an advanced intermediate level (B2) is a prerequisite for participation. For orientation purposes, you can assess your language skills here (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR): <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168045bb52>)

Grading

Participation & Day's Summaries and Questions: 30%

Text Presentation: 30%

Final Exam: 40%

Readings

A digital reader will be provided.

Course schedule

Date	Program*
Friday, January 6, 2023	<p>Overview and Core Concepts</p> <p>How can we begin to define and connect the diverse topics and concepts we will encounter? What are Human Rights all about, in relation to migration? What is the actual difference between mobile people, migrants and refugees?</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Crawley, Heaven, und Dimitris Skleparis. 2018. „Refugees, migrants, neither, both: categorical fetishism and the politics of bounding in Europe’s ‘migration crisis’“. <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> 44 (1): 48–64.</p> <p>Scheel, Stephan and Tazzioli, Martina. 2022. Who is a Migrant? Abandoning the Nation-state Point of View in the Study of Migration. <i>Migration Politics</i> 1(2): 1-23</p>

<p>Monday, January 9, 2023</p>	<p>Migration Theories</p> <p>We will get an overview of earlier migration theories and discuss their shortcomings and focus on critical theories of human migration.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>de Haas, Hein 2021. A theory of migration: the aspirations-capabilities framework. <i>Comparative Migration Studies</i> 9 (8): 1-35. (For the class, we will read only the first half of the article to get an overview of earlier migration theories; the pages between 1-16.)</p> <p>Casas-Cortes, Maribel et al. 2015. "New Keywords: Migration and Borders." <i>Cultural Studies</i> 29 (1): 55–87</p>
<p>Wednesday, January 11, 2023</p>	<p>European Border Regime and its Crisis</p> <p>Focusing on European Union, we will discuss the transformation of borders and nation states and the rights of migrants and refugees. Following, we will have a closer look at the 2015 crisis. We will elaborate the processes behind the destabilization of European Border Regime and its restabilization attempts such as Hotspot Approach and EU-Turkey deal.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Buckel, Sonja, und Jens Wissel. 2010. „State Project Europe: The Transformation of the European Border Regime and the Production of Bare Life“. <i>International Political Sociology</i> 4 (1): 33–49.</p> <p>Hess, Sabine, und Bernd Kasperek. 2017. „Under Control? Or Border (as) Conflict: Reflections on the European Border Regime“. <i>Social Inclusion</i> 5 (3): 58–68.</p>
<p>Friday, January 13, 2023</p>	<p>Policy changes and Differential Inclusion</p> <p>We will learn how Germany responded to the significant increase of immigration in the last years. Which politics and policies emerged on the national and administrative level? What has changed? How are these changes implemented in the city-state level? How can the concept of differential inclusion help us to understand these developments?</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Caroline Schultz (2019): A prospect of staying? Differentiated access to integration for asylum seekers in Germany, <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 43 (7): 1246-1264.</p>

	<p>Field trip to Berlin’s migration-administration authorities on district level (upon availability)</p>
<p>Monday, January 16, 2023</p>	<p>Willkommenskultur and the cultures of rejection</p> <p>We will discuss the emergence of welcome culture (Willkommenskultur) by focusing on the reactions of civil society in 2015 crisis. How are refugees represented in the public discourse? How do civil agents perceive their engagement with newcomers? Following, we will learn about the role of the media in the acceptance of refugees and the short-lived pro-refugee discourse and will discuss the shift back to the exclusionary discourse (back to a culture of rejection).</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>Vollmer, Bastian; Karakayali, Serhat. 2017. “The Volatility of the Discourse on Refugees in Germany”. <i>Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies</i> 29 (3): 1–22.</p> <p>Field trip to a Welcome-Initiative (upon availability)</p>
<p>Wednesday, January 18, 2023</p>	<p>Transformation of Migrant Labor</p> <p>Migrant labor has been mostly discussed in relation to the theory of labor market segmentation. Is this theory still useful to understand the new composition of labor? Did the migrant factory worker transform into care worker, grocery shop owner, logistics worker, IT expert, etc....? How can we analyze this kind of multiplication of labor? How is their exploitation connected to their stratified legal status? How did the labor market react to recent migrations?</p> <p>Reading:</p> <p>Altenried, Moritz, Manuela Bojadžijev, Leif Höfler, Sandro Mezzadra, und Mira Wallis. 2018. „Logistical Borderscapes Politics and Mediation of Mobile Labor in Germany after the “Summer of Migration”“. <i>South Atlantic Quarterly</i> 117 (2): 291–312.</p> <p>Field trip to a trade union in migration-matters (upon availability)</p>
<p>Friday, January 20, 2023</p>	<p>Migrants’ Perspectives</p> <p>Berlin is famous for its “rebellious” history. What is the role of migrants and refugees in this history? Which social positions and perspectives have been taken by ‘illegalized’ migrants and refugees themselves in Berlin since the start of Guest-Worker Program? What is meant by migrant agency? What additional forms of oppression do women refugees and migrants experience? What forms of micro-politics do they</p>

	<p>employ? How do they perceive themselves as newcomers to the EU?</p> <p>Reading:</p> <p>Odugbesan, Abimbola, and Helge Schwiertz. (2018): “‘We Are Here to Stay’ – Refugee Struggles in Germany Between Unity and Division.” In <i>Protest Movements in Asylum and Deportation</i>, edited by Sieglinde Rosenberger, Verena Stern, and Nina Merhaut. IMISCOE Research Series. Cham: Springer International Publishing. 185–203.</p> <p>Field trip to a migrant/refugee women organization (upon availability)</p>
<p>Wednesday, January 25, 2023</p>	<p>Future of Migration</p> <p>Final class discussion and final exam</p>

*Field trips are subject to change depending on the availability of appointments and speakers. On field trip days, class hours may be adjusted.