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<b>Course title:</b>	Europe, Migration, Refugees
<b>Track:</b>	B-Track
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>Contact hours:</b>	72 (6 per day)
<b>ECTS-Credits:</b>	6

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### Course Description

Regarding transnational migration, the European Union as a supranational community promotes a political reasoning between processes of consolidation and necessary conflict, between sovereignty and shared responsibility, between the right to define and delimit and the duty to negotiate. In ongoing economic crisis and facing unprecedented movements of people, the timeless normalcy of migration is often framed as crisis per se. Populist claims for cultural homogeneity and for closed borders undercut efforts for a common migration policy.

As the visibility of migration increases in various ways, migrants are often represented and imagined as a homogenous mass of 'the other'. This leads to a problematic understanding of migration as something similar to a natural disaster that requires to be controlled and governed from a strategic top-down perspective. 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 centres and at the margins of societies alike, where the single person contributes to the respective discourses as well: It is here, where either homogenizing images of threat are reproduced or sensible policies of individuality are practised.

Departing from diverse theories of migration (mainstream as well as critical perspectives), we will gain an overview of EU-level migration polity and recent migration- and border-management policies. We will analyse the conflicts, debates and discourses around the last years of increased immigration in Germany. Step by step we will get aware of the notion of identity politics, which can manifest in peaceful diversity, but is time and again prone to provoke social dynamics of disintegration. After analyzing the simplifying languages of exclusion in populist discourse, we will focus on the "legalization-market" of Almería/Spain, to learn about the imbrications of migration and economic calculations on one of the biggest "illegal labor markets" in the EU.

Scaling down perspective on the local level in the fieldtrips, we will engage with local authorities' and politicians' perspectives in Berlin. Diving deeper down we will start to change perspective: How do local activists develop and implement their own policies of welcoming migrants? What are the aims of and how do legal assessment organizations for migrants work? We will see, how refugees themselves perceive EU-migration policies and what they make themselves of their public positioning as a 'problem' or as a 'burden' to European Societies.

We will encounter migrants' viewpoints, which reach beyond the usual framings of 'the poor migrant' as 'passive victim', as a threat or as the '(anti-)hero' of globalization. We will encounter

viewpoints on the EU, which will constructively criticize as well as graciously affirm the spirit of the Union. We will encounter viewpoints of hope.

**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.

**Prerequisites**

No prior knowledge is required – but the willingness to think beyond the usual framings on migration and identity.

**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 formulated, in preparation for the next sessions.
- Each student (together with fellow students) is required one time to prepare an input-presentation of a text in class (max. 10 min. each person).
- The final examination (90 min.) will consist of answering 2-3 leading questions regarding the contents of the seminar in continuous text.

**Grading**

Participation & Day's Summaries and Questions: 40%  
 Text Presentation: 30%  
 Final Examination: 30%

**Reading**

A course reader will be provided at the first course meeting

**Course Schedule**

Date	Program*
Tuesday, May 28, 2019	<p><b>Overview and Core Concepts</b></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>
Friday, May 31, 2019	<p><b>Migration Theories</b></p> <p>We will get an overview over the most common as well as more critical theories of human migration.</p>
Tuesday, June 4, 2019	<p><b>Migration Management in the Schengen-Regime</b></p> <p>The process of European integration entailed a rethinking of international border- and security-management.</p>

	We will take a closer look at diverse politics, policies and forms of policing.
Friday, June 7, 2019	<p><b>The Schengen-Regime and Recent Migrations</b></p> <p>Focusing Germany, we will learn about how the Schengen-regime coped with the significant increase of immigration in the last years? Which politics and policies emerged on the official and on the unofficial level? What has actually changed?</p> <p><b>Field trip:</b> Visiting Berlin’s migration-administration authorities on district level</p>
Tuesday, June 11, 2019	<p><b>Recent Migrations and Conflicts – Crisis and/or Chance?</b></p> <p>Which political, economic, juridical and ethical problematizations, debates and conflicts are circulating in the EU, regarding the refugee-“crisis”? What actually is “in crisis”? How do civil agents perceive their engagement with newcomers?</p> <p><b>Field trip:</b> Visiting a Welcome-Initiative</p>
Friday, June 14, 2019	<p><b>Identity Politics and Racism</b></p> <p>Identity politics per se are prone to disintegrating effects. How are the concepts of identity and racism interconnected?</p>
Tuesday, June 18, 2019	<p><b>The Languages of Exclusion</b></p> <p>As we will have already seen, public communication plays a crucial role in migration politics as well: We will learn how to decode such languages, analyzing populist election-advertisements.</p>
Friday, June 21, 2019	<p><b>The Politics of Identity and Fear: The “Populist Backlash”</b></p> <p>The rise of radical right-wing politics (not only) in Europe sometimes seems to be played down by the notion of ‘populism’. We will think about the potentials and dangers of populism in general and in the German context.</p> <p><b>Field Trip:</b> Discussing populist migration politics with a local politician</p>
Tuesday, June 25, 2019	<p><b>The Vicious Circle of Identity Politics and the Logics of Toleration</b></p> <p>The disintegrating effects of identity politics are based on a logic to tolerate “the other” much more than to really engage with them, Thus, these logics of toleration play a crucial role in escalation-dynamics, which we will</p>

	analyze with a short but precise look into German migration history.
Tuesday, June 28, 2019	<p><b>“We don’t work for money – we work for papers!”</b></p> <p>How can we understand the concepts of legal and illegal migration not only in juridical, but also in economic and ethical terms? What happens when the legal status of a person is directly linked to its economic value on a legalization-market?</p> <p><b>Field trip:</b> Discussion with representatives of a legal-assessment organization in migration-matters</p>
Friday, July 2, 2019	<p><b>“They don’t see us as normal persons, you know?”</b></p> <p>Which social positions and perspectives are taken by ‘illegal’ migrants and refugees themselves? What is meant by migrant agency? What forms of micro-politics do migrants employ? How do they perceive themselves as newcomers to the EU?</p> <p><b>Field trip:</b> Berlin from the refugee’s perspective</p>
Friday, July 5, 2019	<p><b>Final Examination (90 min.)</b></p> <p>Wrap Up Session</p>

\*Field trips may be subject to change depending on the availability of appointments and speakers. On field trip days, adaptation of class times is possible.