Name: Duygu Gürsel
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Course title: Europe, Migration, Refugees
Track: B-Track
Language of instruction: English
Contact hours: 48 (6 per day)
ECTS-Credits: 4

Course Description
Regarding transnational migration, the EU 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.

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 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 centres 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 analyse 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? In an encounter with refugees in Berlin, 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. Finally, focusing on the history of migrant struggles in Berlin, 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 solidarity.

Student profile
This course is designed for all students having a personal, professional or political 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.
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 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.

Required language skills:
The language of instruction is English. Language proficiency on an advanced Intermediate level (*Mittelstufe II*) 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](https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentid=090000168045bb52))

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
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Program*</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, July 21, 2020</td>
<td><strong>Overview and Core Concepts</strong>&lt;br&gt;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’?</td>
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<td>Friday, July 24, 2020</td>
<td><strong>Migration Theories</strong>&lt;br&gt;We will get an overview over the most common as well as more critical theories of human migration.</td>
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<td>Tuesday, July 28, 2020</td>
<td><strong>Migration Management in the Schengen-Regime</strong>&lt;br&gt;The process of European integration entailed a rethinking of international border- and security-management. We will take a closer look at diverse public and private institutions, their polities and forms of policing.</td>
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<td>Friday, July 31, 2020</td>
<td><strong>The Schengen-Regime and Recent Migrations</strong>&lt;br&gt;Focusing on Germany, we will learn about how the Schengen-regime and its member states coped with the significant increase of immigration in the last years.</td>
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| Tuesday, August 4, 2020 | **Recent Migrations and Conflicts – Crisis and/or Solidarity?**  
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? What does solidarity mean in this context?  
**Field trip:** Visiting Berlin’s migration-administration authorities on district level |
| Friday, August 7, 2020 | **Transformation of Migrant Labor**  
Is migrant labor just a reserve army of labor? How can we understand that migrant labor transformed from factory worker into self-employed or care worker? Did migrant labor become more affective? How is their exploitation connected to their legal status?  
**Field trip:** Visiting a Welcome-Initiative |
| Tuesday, August 11, 2020 | **Migrants’ perspective**  
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 migrants employ? How do they perceive themselves as newcomers to the EU?  
**Field trip:** Discussion with representatives of a trade union in migration-matters |
| Friday, August 14, 2020 | **Final Examination (90 min.)**  
**Wrap Up Session** |

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