

Name:	Dr. Felix Hoffmann
Email address:	f.hoffmann@fu-berlin.de
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. 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 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 policies of welcoming migrants? What are the aims of and how do legal assessment organizations for migrants work? 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 legalization-market of Almería/Spain, 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 professional, political or 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.

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 free text-production on 2-3 leading questions regarding the contents of the seminar. The quality of thinking in a comprehensive way is of more importance than any quantity of 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, July 24, 2018	Overview and Core Concepts 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'?
Friday, July 27, 2018	Migration Theories We will get an overview over the most common as well as more critical theories of human migration.
Tuesday, July 31, 2018	Migration Management in the Schengen-Regime 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 politics and forms of policing.
Friday, August 3, 2018	The Schengen-Regime and Recent Migrations How has the Schengen-regime and its member states 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? Field trip and discussion with Berlin's migration-administration authorities

<p>Tuesday, August 7, 2018</p>	<p>Recent Migrations and Conflicts – Crisis and/or Chance? 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>Discussion with guests from a Berlin Welcome-Initiative</p>
<p>Friday, August 10, 2018</p>	<p>“We don’t work for money – we work for papers!” 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>Field trip and discussion with representatives of a legal-assessment organization in migration-matters</p>
<p>Tuesday, August 14, 2018</p>	<p>“They don’t see us as normal persons, you know?” 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>Field trip: Berlin from the refugee’s perspective</p>
<p>Friday, August 17, 2018</p>	<p>Final Examination (90 min.) 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.