

Course title:	Europe, Migration, Refugees
Instructor:	Duygu Gürsel
Email address:	duygu.gursel@fu-berlin.de
Track:	B-Track
Language of instruction:	English
Prerequisites:	Students should be able to speak and read English at the upper intermediate level (B2) or higher.
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

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 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 ‘the poor migrant’ as ‘passive victim’, as a threat or as the ‘(anti-)hero’ of globalization. We will encounter viewpoints on the conflicts, compromises, resistances, solidarity and social transformation shaping and shaped by recent migration movement 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: 40%

Text Presentation: 30%

Final Exam: 30%

Readings

A digital reader will be provided.

Course schedule

Date	Program*
Tuesday, July 26, 2022	<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>Castles, Stephen. 2007. “The Migration–Asylum Nexus and Regional Approaches” in Kneebone, Susan, und Felicity Rawlings-Sanaei (ed.) <i>New Regionalism and Asylum Seekers: Challenges Ahead</i>. Berghahn Books.</p>
Friday, July 29, 2022	<p>Migration Theories</p> <p>We will get an overview over the most common as well as more critical theories of human migration.</p> <p>Readings:</p> <p>O’Reilly, Karen. 2015. „Migration Theories: A Critical Overview“. Routledge Handbook of Immigration and Refugee Studies. Routledge.</p> <p>Casas-Cortes, Maribel et al. 2015. “New Keywords: Migration and Borders.” <i>Cultural Studies</i> 29 (1): 55–87</p>
Tuesday, August 02, 2022	<p>Migration Management in the Schengen-Regime</p> <p>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.</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>parek, Bernd. 2016. „Complementing Schengen: The Dublin System and the European Border and Migration Regime“. In <i>Migration Policy and Practice</i>:</p>

	<p>Interventions and Solutions, ed. Harald Bauder und Christian Matheis, 59–78. Migration, Diasporas and Citizenship. New York: Palgrave Macmillan US.</p>
<p>Friday, August 05, 2022</p>	<p>The Schengen-Regime and Recent Migrations</p> <p>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. Which politics and policies emerged on the official and on the unofficial level? What has actually changed?</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>Will, Anne-Kathrin. 2018. „On “Genuine” and “Illegitimate” Refugees: New Boundaries Drawn by Discriminatory Legislation and Practice in the Field of Humanitarian Reception in Germany“. <i>Social Inclusion</i> 6 (3): 172–89.</p> <p>Guest speaker from Berlin’s migration-administration authorities on district level (upon availability)</p>
<p>Tuesday, August 09, 2022</p>	<p>Recent Migrations and Conflicts – Crisis and/or Solidarity?</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 are refugees represented in the public discourse? How do civil agents perceive their engagement with newcomers?</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>Guest speaker from a Welcome-Initiative (upon availability)</p>
<p>Friday, August 12, 2022</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”“. South Atlantic Quarterly 117 (2): 291–312.</p> <p>Guest speaker from a trade union in migration-matters (upon availability)</p>
<p>Tuesday, August 16, 2022</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 migrants 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 Protest Movements in Asylum and Deportation, edited by Sieglinde Rosenberger, Verena Stern, and Nina Merhaut. IMISCOE Research Series. Cham: Springer International Publishing. 185–203.</p> <p>Guest speaker from a migrant/refugee women organization (upon availability)</p>
<p>Friday, August 19, 2022</p>	<p>Future of Migration</p> <p>Final class discussion and final exam</p> <p>-Reading for the final class will be announced and distributed in the first class.</p>

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