

FU/BEST Program

Name: Dr. Felix Hoffmann

Email address: fubest@fu-berlin.de

Course title: Migration: Dynamics and Controversies in Europe and Germany

Course number: FU-BEST 34

Language of instruction: English

Contact hours: 45

ECTS-Credits: 5 U.S. semester credits: 3

Course description

The European Union consists of pluralist nation-states. This is official policy up to the highest levels of the EU-bureaucracy, in which “any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, color, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age, or sexual orientation shall be prohibited.” Although this is the norm, in the factual every-day power-relations between state-actors, citizens and newcomers, diverse forms of discrimination are steadily reproduced. In this course, we will encounter some of these differences between the normative and the factual as we pursue a series of learning objectives:

In the lecturing-parts of the sessions, migration dynamics, discourses and policies in the wake of the 2015 “refugee crisis” on the European and the German level will be introduced. Then we will ground our discussions of the respective topics on content-related as well as theory-oriented texts, which provide us with alternative viewpoints.

Based on constructivist approaches drawn from cultural and social anthropology, we will question different forms of mobility, while being aware of their historical contexts in the rise of the (European) nation-state. We will especially examine more closely the often highly emotionalized and too often too simplistic public debates, which take place mostly around the categories of ethnicity and religion, inasmuch as people do not come only as ethnicized or religionized subjects: They come with their own agency, their genders, professions, political viewpoints, personal tastes, ethics and aesthetics, subcultures and complex worldviews. In other words, they come as individual persons – like anybody else. Thereby we will look at diverse forms of multimedia-based representations of the highly complex and multidimensional dynamics and controversies involved in migration processes. Here we will also think about the consequences of the contemporary politics of fear and identity especially in populist discourse, that are played out along the lines of the production and reproduction of fixed cultural boundaries.

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A final objective of the course will be to explore ways to think beyond the conventional framings of identity, as we will learn step-by-step to differentiate between identity-related politics of fighting and peaceful alterity-politics.

Student profile

Second-semester sophomore or above

Prerequisites

None

Course Requirements

Class participation: 25%

(includes 1 Independent Project report 10% and 1 short input-presentation 15%)

Midterm exam: 25%

Term-Paper: 25%

Final exam: 25%

Literature

A complete reader will be provided.

Course schedule

Sessions	Topics, Readings, etc.
Session 1	<p>Topic: Introduction</p> <p>Learning Objectives: We will get an overview of the course's topics and mayor concepts.</p> <p>Guest: Christiane Beckmann from the Welcome-Initiative "Moabit Hilft"</p>
Session 2	<p>Topic: The Social Construction of Migration in the EU: Human Rights and the Modern Nation State</p> <p>Learning Objectives: Outlining the foundations of EU-migration-law and policy, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we will seek to understand the modern nation-state as a historically constructed reality, bordering, unifying and representing diverse forms of belonging. We will differentiate between the diverse forms of mobility and will de- and re-problematize migration and mobility with regard to its timeless normalcy.</p> <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baumann, Mechtild (2014): Frontex and the EU Border Regime. focus MIGRATION. Editors: Vera Hanewinkel, Jochen Oltmer, Jocelyn Storm. Edition: Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS). University of

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	<p>Osnabrück. Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung / Network Migration in Europe (Policy Brief, 25).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cresswell, Tim (2006): On the Move. Mobility in the Modern Western World. NY: Routledge.
<p>Session 3</p>	<p>Topic: Migration Dynamics and the (Mis-)Representation of Migration in Times of Globalization</p> <p>Learning Objectives: After an introduction to historical and recent Migration Policy in Europe and Germany, we will ask for global justice.</p> <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engler, Marcus; Schneider, Jan (2006): German Asylum Policy and EU Refugee Protection. The Prospects of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). focus MIGRATION. Editors: Marcel Berlinghoff, Vera Hanewinkel, Jochen Oltmer. Edition: Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS). University of Osnabrück. Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung / Network Migration in Europe (Policy Brief, 5). • O'Reilly, Karen (2014): Lifestyle Migration. Editors: Marcel Berlinghoff, Vera Hanewinkel, Jochen Oltmer. Edition: Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS). University of Osnabrück. Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung / Network Migration in Europe (Policy Brief, 27). • Fraser, N. (2010): Injustice at Intersecting Scales: On 'Social Exclusion' and the 'Global Poor'. In: European Journal of Social Theory 13 (3), S. 363–371.
<p>Session 4</p>	<p>Topic: Current Migrations Dynamics in Germany: Dynamics and Controversies I</p> <p>Learning Objectives: How does Germany as a State tackle the highly increased number of people fleeing war, persecution but also economic deprivation in the last years? The problems of migration are often seen in social and cultural difference as such, while the factual problems are often disregarded. We will also have a feedback-round on the independent-project experiences.</p> <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanewinkel, Vera; Oltmer, Jochen (2017): Germany. focus MIGRATION - Country Profile. Editors: Jochen Oltmer Vera Hanewinkel. Edition: Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS). University of Osnabrück. Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung / Network Migration in Europe (Policy Brief). • Vollmer, Bastian; Karakayali, Serhat (2017): The Volatility of the Discourse on Refugees in Germany. In: Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies 29 (3), S. 1–22.

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<p>Session 5</p>	<p>Topic: Current Migrations Dynamics in Germany: Dynamics and Controversies II</p> <p>Learning Objectives: Migrants come with their creeds – when and how or: Does this become a problem?</p> <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schiffauer, Werner (2013): The Logics of Toleration. Outline for a Comparative Approach to the Study of Tolerance. In: Jan Dobbernack, Tariq Modood und Bhikhu Parekh (Hg.): Tolerance, Intolerance and Respect. Hard to Accept? Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, S. 103–126. • Schiffauer, Werner (2005): Migration and Religion. A Special Relationship. In: Fikrun Wa Fann, S. 29–34.
<p>Session 6</p>	<p>Midterm Exam</p>

<p>Session 7</p>	<p>Topic: Current Migrations Dynamics in Germany: Dynamics and Controversies III</p> <p>Learning Objectives: As we will have already seen, public communication plays a crucial role also in migration politics: We will learn how to analyse such languages.</p> <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schrover, Marlou; Schinkel, Willem (2013): Introduction. The language of inclusion and exclusion in the context of immigration and integration. In: Ethnic and Racial Studies 36 (7), S. 1123–1141. • Hiscott, William (2005): ‘Parallel Societies’ – A Neologism gone bad. Multi-cultural Center Prague.
<p>Session 8</p>	<p>Topic: Identity Politics and Racism</p> <p>Learning Objectives: Identity politics per se are prone to exclusionary politics. How are the concepts of identity and racism interconnected?</p> <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friese, Heidrun (2006): Cultural Identities. In: Gerard Delanty

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	<p>(Hg.): Handbook of contemporary European social theory. London, New York: Routledge (Routledge international handbooks), S. 298–309.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilomba, Grada (2010): Plantation Memories. Episodes of Everyday Racism. 2. Aufl. Münster: Unrast.
Session 9	<p>Topic: How Does the Figure of the Refugee Unsettles the Political Landscape in Europe and Germany?</p> <p>Learning Objective: Migrants and Refugees are often seen as a threat or as passive victims. What about their agency?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agustin, Laura (2003): Forget Victimization. Granting Agency to Migrants. In: Development (46), S. 30–36. • Pries, Ludger (2013): Migrant Organizations. Size, Structures, and Significance. focus MIGRATION. Edition: Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS). University of Osnabrück. Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (bpb) / Network Migration in Europe e.V. (Policy Brief, 21).
Session 10	<p>Topic: how to understand the economic impact of migration?</p> <p>Learning Objectives: We will have a closer look on the economic impact of migration in general and take a look from the migrant's perspective</p> <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonacich, Edna (1972): A Theory of Ethnic Antagonism. The Split Labor Market. In: American Sociological Review (37), S. 547–559. • Hertlein, Stefanie; Vadean, Florin (2006): Remittances. A Bridge between Migration and Development? focus MIGRATION. Editors: Jennifer Elrick, Barbara Bils, Tanja El-Cherkeh, Gunnar Geyer, Rainer Münz, Antje Scheidler, Tanja El-Cherkeh, Gunnar Geyer, Rainer Münz, Network Migration in Europe e.V. (Antje Scheidler) und on behalf of the bpb (Jan Schneider). Edition: Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI). Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung / Network Migration in Europe (Policy Brief, 5).
Session 11	<p>Topic: The Politics of Fear and Identity: The “Populist Backlash”</p> <p>Learning Objectives: 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>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moffitt, Benjamin; Tormey, Simon (2014): Rethinking

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	<p>Populism. Politics, Mediatisation and Political Style. In: Political Studies 62 (2), S. 381–397.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coury, David N. (2016): A Clash of Civilizations? Pegida and the Rise of Cultural Nationalism. In: German Politics and Society 34 (4), S. 54–67.
Session 12	<p>Looking Forward: Migration in the Future and Ending on a Positive Note</p> <p>Learning Objectives: We will wrap up the seminar and think about the realities and possibilities of living together with different people: A recent way to conceptualize this in a very positive but still conflict-aware manner is called <i>conviviality</i>.</p> <p>Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oltmer, Jochen (2013): Global Migration in the Future. Editors: Vera Hanewinkel, Jochen Oltmer. Edition: Institute for Migration Research and Intercultural Studies (IMIS). University of Osnabrück. Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung / Network Migration in Europe (Focus Migration - Policy Brief, 23). • Dussaux, Maryvonne (Hg.) (2014): Convivialist Manifesto. A Declaration of Interdependence. Collaborators: Margaret Clarke. Duisburg: Käte Hamburger Kolleg / Centre for Global Cooperation Research (Global Dialogues 3).
Session 13	Final Exam