



BERLIN PERSPECTIVES

Migrant Food Entrepreneurs in Berlin

Semester:	Winter Semester 2020/21
Course instructor:	Dr. You-Kyung Byun (byunkyun@hu-berlin.de)
Subject area:	Culture and Society
Credits:	5 ECTS
Time:	Monday 16:15 – 17:45
Room:	Zoom (Please note: This semester, all classes take place online. If however the general conditions allow it, the seminar room 0323-26 (3 rd floor) at Hausvogteiplatz 5-7 can be used by the courses.)

Course description:

This course aims to explore, critically analyze, and comprehend the history of migration and the recent development of migrant economies in Berlin with a particular focus on migrant food entrepreneurship. About 30% of the total population in Berlin has migration backgrounds. Many of them are part of migrant economies in this multicultural city, mainly in ethnic food sectors. Food as an indispensable nourishment resource and a complex social compound, migrant food entrepreneurship reveals various facets of global and local development. For instance, migrant food entrepreneurs reflect multilayered connections of the local business to the origin of the represented culture. Thus, it is essential to consider in what ways ethnic cuisine is integrated into our ordinary life. Who are the migrant food entrepreneurs in Berlin? How do they reproduce their national and international identity in their culinary business? How does it interact with the city's socioeconomic environment? In this course, participants will work with the examples from Berlin's multicultural culinary sceneries to answer these questions. The first half of the course deals with theoretical concepts. In the second half, participants will develop an individual or group project about Berlin's food entrepreneurs. Through interactive and collaborative exercises, participants will develop genuine perspectives in living together in a multicultural city.

Learning objectives:

This Bachelor-level seminar aims to raise awareness of Berlin's cultural diversity in the culinary and economic scape. To achieve this goal, participants will learn theoretical concepts and critically implement them to analyze the phenomena.

In this course, participants will learn:

1. migration history and geography of Berlin.
2. cultural sensitivity in the surroundings.
3. both theoretical and practical approaches to intercultural food and foodways in Berlin.
4. cultural diversity in Berlin with hand-on materials.
5. critical reflection of theories for understanding practice.
6. exchanging original ideas in a productive group working environment.
7. academic writing, how to structure an argumentation and deliver it in a short essay.

Assessment portfolio (100%):

1. **Homework and active participation (30%):** The students are requested to participate in all sessions actively and to submit homework on moodle regularly. Please keep in mind that active and regular participation in the course is essential for understanding the course objectives, which is the key to successfully delivering the project and essay.

2. **Group project and presentation (30%):** The participants will conduct a group project (an individual project is also possible). The project should be about a case of migrant food entrepreneurship that relates to the course's main objectives. Both online and offline resources can be utilized for case selection and material collection. In the presentation, the participants will explain what they discovered and how they relate it to the theories discussed in the course.

3. **Essay** (about 1000-1500 words, due on the 26. February 2021, **40%**): The course participants will write a short essay about migrant food entrepreneurship in Berlin. In this essay, you will need to develop a research question and answer it in a logical structure. The materials collected from the group project can be reflected and referenced for the essay.

Language requirements:

The minimum language requirement for this course is English at B2. The reading materials and discussion will primarily be in English.

Timetable:

Session 1: 02.11.2020 **Introduction**

In the first session, the course instructor will introduce the course theme and provide an overview of individual sessions and assessments for successfully achieving 5 ECTS.

This course consists of two sub-parts. The first part (from session 2 to session 6) concentrates on delivering key concepts and knowledge about the migrant history and the development of ethnic food entrepreneurship in Berlin.

Session 2: 09.11.2020 **Migrants in Berlin**

The second session focuses on the history of migration in Germany, particularly since the 1960s in Berlin. Who are the migrant communities, and where do they locate in Berlin?

Reading 1: Kil, Wolfgang and Hilary Silver. 2006. "From Kreuzberg to Marzahn: New migrant communities in Berlin." *German Politics & Society* 24(4): 95-121.

Homework 1: Based on the text above, what are the similarities and differences between the two districts in Berlin: Kreuzberg and Marzahn? (upload on moodle until 08.11.2020)

Session 3: 16.11.2020 **Historical development of migrant restaurants in Germany**

Session 3 deepens our focus on the immigrants and their restaurants in Berlin. For this, we will read a text that explains the historical development of migrant restaurants in West Germany.

Reading 2: Möhring, Maren. 2014. "Food for Thought: Rethinking the History of Migration to West Germany Through the Migrant Restaurant Business." *Journal of Contemporary History* 49(1): 209-227.

Homework 2: What are the conditions for immigrants opening a restaurant in Germany/Berlin? Find the possible answers in the text above or elsewhere. (post the answer on moodle until 15.11.2020)

Session 4: 23.11.2020 **Walking tour through the city**

This week, we will meet offline and discover the city together on foot. Keeping an explorative gaze, we will visit some of Berlin's multicultural neighborhoods, such as Hermannstraße in Neukölln and Kantstraße in Charlottenburg. Do not forget to bring your Semesterticket for U-Bahn transfer. (Detailed meeting point and schedule will be announced a week before. Time: 16:00 – 19:00)

Homework 3: Take pictures or record videos relating traces of migrant food entrepreneurship and upload them on moodle. (deadline: 29.11.2020)

Session 5: 30.11.2020 Business strategies of migrant entrepreneurs

In session 5, we will discuss the entrepreneurial strategies of immigrants. What are the differences and similarities between migrant and non-migrant entrepreneurship?

Reading 3: Pécoud, Antoine. 2004. "Entrepreneurship and identity: Cosmopolitanism and cultural competencies among German-Turkish businesspeople in Berlin." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 30(1): 3-20.

Homework 4: What are the entrepreneurial strategies of immigrants? Find the answers in the text above or from other resources. (upload on moodle until 29.11.2020)

Session 6: 07.12.2020 Migrant food entrepreneurs in Berlin

Session 6 focuses on the presentation of authenticity in ethnic restaurants. The text below describes examples in the USA, which we will attempt to contextualize in Berlin.

Reading 4: Lu, Shun and Gary Alan Fine. 1995. "The presentation of ethnic authenticity: Chinese food as a social accomplishment." *The Sociological Quarterly* 36(3): 535-553.

Homework 5: Find examples of presentation of authentic cuisines, such as websites, reports, advertisements, or videos, and upload them on moodle. (deadline: 06.12.2020)

In the second part of this course (from session 7 to session 10), the participants will conduct a small project about migrant food entrepreneurship individually or in a group. For this assignment, the participant will be asked to form a working group and select an example for the case analysis. The case analysis should include the location, item, and business strategies, etc. and should reflect theoretical concepts discussed in the course earlier. The groups will present the results of the project in session 9.

Session 7: 11.01.2021 Group project 1: Method workshop and group building

In session 7, students will build groups for the group project and develop concrete plans. The method workshop provided by the instructor will guide the process from the selection of a case and conducting the project and analysis. (Time: 16:00-19:00)

In the third week of January and the first week of February, the students are expected to conduct the group project and prepare the presentation individually (However, the online classroom will be open for group meetings).

Session 8: 25. 01. 2021 Group project 2: Intermediate report

This week, the participants will report shortly how their group project is proceeding. Moreover, the instructor will consult any questions and difficulties in the project.

Session 9: 08.02.2021 **Project presentation**

In session 9, the participants will present their group project. Students will practice giving an academic presentation and mutually giving feedback in the cooperative atmosphere. Each group will have about 15 min for presentation and 5 min for questions and answers. (Time: 16:00-19:00)

Session 10: 15.02.2021 **Concluding discussion**

In this last session of the winter semester 2020/21, the course participants will review the course contents. The instructor will give a guide on how to finalize the essay as well.

*On the 22.02.2021, an open zoom session will be held. Anyone requiring support for the essay or having other questions can come.

Remarks:

- This course is primarily designed as an online course. However, depending on the situation, in-classroom sessions can take place in the later semester weeks.
- The course will actively utilize moodle for downloading reading materials, sharing other resources, participating in the discussion, and uploading course assignments.
- The online classroom will take place on Zoom, and the course participants will find the invitation on moodle.
- Please contact the instructor in advance when you cannot attend a session. You might be able to complete a make-up task.
- Please be aware of plagiarism policy: Please use a consequent citation style in writing when you borrow another person's words, ideas, or images. Failing this duty will result in 0 points, which means the failure of this course.
- All course assessments can be completed even if you are not in Berlin.