



An Immigrant Story

Summer Semester 2023: 19 April - 23 July 2023

CATEGORY

Migration and Identity

COURSE STRUCTURE

2 contact hours à 45 min per week (summer semester: 14 weeks)

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Time

Tuesday, 16:00-18:00 c.t. (4.15pm-5.45pm)

Place

Hausvogteiplatz 5-7, 10117 Berlin, room 0323-26

COURSE LANGUAGE

This course is taught in English, including the readings. For the understanding of the texts and the discussions in class, language-level B2 is required. Some basic German (A1) is recommended for basic communication in the tours (if it is possible to do them in person).

Language requirements (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages)

English B2

German A1 (recommended)

TARGET GROUP

International exchange students of all subjects with a strong interest in the course topic. Berlin Perspectives courses are designed for undergraduate students. Master students may participate if their home university agrees. Regular degree-seeking students can select the course within the elective part of their study program (überfachlicher Wahlpflichtbereich üWP).

CREDITS = 5 ECTS

The Berlin Perspectives courses are offered by the Career Center as part of the elective program üWP. Registration takes place via Agnes.

All courses are accredited according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The phrase “Germany is not a country of immigration” has been said by German officials multiple times, and yet, Germany is the second most popular destination for immigrants (just after the USA). But how has this country, which less than 100 years ago was home to one of the most racist and xenophobic regimes that have ever existed, now home to so many immigrants? In this class, we will explore the history and the laws behind it, and, even more, we will hear the stories firsthand of immigrants living in Berlin. As the course takes place in Berlin, the city will be our study case.

From tours organized by refugees, walks in the diverse Berliner neighborhoods, and interviews with immigrants, this class aims to give a more in-depth, first-hand insight into the condition of immigrants living in Germany. That, without forgetting to take history, law, and geography into account, for a richer understanding of the processes that have transformed this city (and country) over and over again.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Please specify. Example:

“The objective of this Bachelor-level course is to equip students with an in-depth understanding of topic x and enable them to read, understand and critically reflect on the most recent theoretical and empirical research in the field. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

Knowledge

- Understand, describe and identify the core theories of topic theories of immigration
- Account for the stylized facts and direct empirical tests of the core theories of topic immigration in Germany
- Provide an overview of recent theoretical and empirical developments in the field of immigration in Germany, with an in-depth study case of Berlin
- Understand and analyze the circumstances surrounding immigrants in Germany and especially in Berlin.

Academic/Transferable Skills

- Analyze and critically reflect on main predictions of core theories of immigration in Germany.
- Select relevant theories and methods for analyzing immigration-related questions and possible issues
- Communicate and discuss key concepts in the field of immigration in Germany
- Development of critical skills to understand and analyse immigrant’s situation in Germany

Competencies

- Read the most recent theoretical and empirical research in immigration studies, having Germany and Berlin as a focus.
- Apply relevant theories and concepts in independent work to analyze new problems and policy proposals in the field of immigration in Germany.

ASSIGNMENT INFO

Workload and assignments

In order to be granted 5 ECTS, participants will be asked to

- actively attend all sessions (a minimum of 75% attendance is required for classroom and online sessions)
- prepare and revise the classroom/online sessions
- hand in the following **assignments**:
 - Text presentation (30% of final grade)
 - Final assignment, which consists on a written paper (70% of final grade)

of approx. 25,000 characters including spaces.

Failure to fulfill one of the mentioned components results in failure of the class.

Assessment Components

The final grade will be composed of the above-mentioned assignments.

YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Julia de Freitas Sampaio

Julia Sampaio is a Ph.D. student at the Humboldt University of Berlin. She is currently researching immigrant integration, but she has dedicated most of her academic life to gender studies. In her current work, she has an intersectional approach to identity and political minorities.

She holds a B.A. (2017) from UFGRS (Brazil) in Social Sciences, an M.A (2019) in Social Development and strategies of inclusion from Paul Valéry (France) and she is currently part of the Faculty of Sociology at Humboldt, where she is pursuing her Ph.D.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introductory class.

Each student will present themselves, I will explain how the class will be conducted and we will discuss the final assignment and the evaluation methods.

We will also watch and discuss the cut version of the TEDex "The danger of a single story" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Drj0cZTBhUI&t=2s>) from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and how the concepts of this talk can be applied to the stories of immigrants and of immigration in Berlin.

Week 2: Geography of immigration: collaborative map.

Questions for students: How do you think the geography of Berlin is? What is your perception of it? Where do you live? And what people do you see there? Trying to create a map of Berlin based on our perception. Presentation of the actual map.

We will also watch two videos about Berlin: "Berlin, Explained" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ucu15Cp56a8>) and "Two Sides of Berlin: Kreuzberg and Marzahn" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3cUGAaNJkJ8>) to better understand the structure of the city and its neighborhoods.

Readings:

OECD (2018), *Working Together for Local Integration of Migrants and Refugees in Berlin*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264305236-en>.

Week 3: Berlin, dynamic city: 100 years of change.

Brief introduction history of the last 100 years in Berlin with a focus on immigration. Presentation of an interactive map of the demographics and how they changed through the last century.

Readings:

Göktürk, D., Gramling, D., & Kaes, A. (2007). Germany in transit: Nation and migration, 1955-2005. In *Germany in Transit Nation and Migration 1955-2005* University of California Press. - chapter about guest arbeiter.

Week 4: Laws about immigration in Berlin - how did they change the city?

- Renting laws in Berlin, price regulation and gentrification: how have those laws have changed through the century?
- Guest workers: what are they? How did they impact Germany? Laws of naturalization and visa regulations: why does it matter?

Readings:

Simon Green (2001) Immigration, asylum and citizenship in Germany: The impact of unification and the Berlin republic, *West European Politics*, 24:4, 82-104, DOI: [10.1080/01402380108425466](https://doi.org/10.1080/01402380108425466)

Week 5: "I don't want to be here"

Video about Moria. Contextualization of immigration theory: why do people migrate?

Students should choose one of the following texts to present (presentations might be done in pairs). Note that students should present one text during this course, so not everyone will present every time.

Readings:

Money, J. (1997). No Vacancy: The Political Geography of Immigration Control in Advanced Industrial Countries. *International Organization*, 51(4), 685-720. Retrieved June 23, 2021, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2703503>

Week 6: Why do people immigrate?

Continuation of the previous week. Student presentation of selected texts.

Readings:

Barbara Dietz (2000) German and Jewish migration from the former Soviet Union to Germany: Background, trends and implications, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 26:4, 635-652, DOI: [10.1080/713680499](https://doi.org/10.1080/713680499)

Hagen-Zanker, Jessica. (2008). Why Do People Migrate? A Review of the Theoretical Literature. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. 10.2139/ssrn.1105657.

Week 7: Refugees welcome?

Perception and reception of immigrants and refugees in Germany since the immigration "crisis" in 2014. I will present the issue and some news and headlines in class, which we will then analyze.

Reading:

Boomgaarden, Hajo & VLIEGENTHART, RENS. (2009). How News Content Influences Anti-immigration Attitudes: Germany, 1993–2005. *European Journal of Political Research*. 48. 516 - 542. 10.1111/j.1475-6765.2009.01831.x.

Video to be watched before the class:

Open or closed: Is Germany a country of immigration? | To the point (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXtEhMfMd4E>)

Week 8: Exploring the city and grounding history.

Grounding History: Tour through some neighborhoods of Berlin. (if it is not possible to do it in person, an online alternative will be presented.)

Week 9: Being an immigrant in Berlin: case studies.

As we already discussed why people immigrate and the German rules about it, this week we will focus on texts about immigration in Berlin. Those texts will explore studies conducted with immigrants in the city and their perspectives on it.

We will watch in class the video "World Citizen: Immigrants of Berlin" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uftwemJ2coc>) which will be used as a base for critically analyzing the situation of immigrants in Berlin.

Recommended reading:

Ognjen Obućina (2013). "Ognjen Obućina (2013). "The Patterns of Satisfaction Among Immigrants in Germany," *Social Indicators Research: An International and Interdisciplinary Journal for Quality-of-Life Measurement*, Springer, vol. 113(3), pages 1105-1127, September.," *Social Indicators Research: An International and Interdisciplinary Journal for Quality-of-Life Measurement*, Springer, vol. 113(3), pages 1105-1127, September.

Week 10: Immigrant stories - archives, articles, and videos.

Living history: videos about refugees' experiences and student's presentation of selected texts.

Students should choose one of the following texts to present (presentations might be done in pairs).

Readings:

Tunay Altay, Gökçe Yurdakul & Anna C. Korteweg (2021) Crossing borders: the intersectional marginalization of Bulgarian Muslim trans*immigrant sex workers in Berlin, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 47:9, 1922-1939, DOI: [10.1080/1369183X.2020.1862646](https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2020.1862646)

Çetin Çelik (2015) 'Having a German passport will not make me German': reactive ethnicity and oppositional identity among disadvantaged male Turkish second-generation youth in Germany, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 38:9, 1646-1662, DOI: [10.1080/01419870.2015.1018298](https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2015.1018298)

Week 11: Immigrant stories - archives, articles and videos.

Living history: videos about refugees' experiences and students' presentation of selected texts. Students should choose one of the following texts to present (presentations might be done in pairs):

Besten, Olga den. "Local Belonging and 'Geographies of Emotions': Immigrant Children's Experience of Their Neighbourhoods in Paris and Berlin." *Childhood* 17, no. 2 (May 2010): 181-95. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0907568210365649>.

Date t.b.a.

"Refugee tour" (if it is not possible to do it in person, an online alternative will be presented).

Link to the page of the initiative <https://refugeevoicestours.org/>

Week 12: Geography of immigration in Berlin.

Now that we have analyzed why people immigrate and the laws and history behind immigration in Berlin, we will focus on debating how this impacts the geography of the city. We will go over the map we created in the first classes and debate the origins of these demographics, as well as try having a critical way of looking at it.

Reading:

Behr, M. An American in Berlin: reflections on the German demographic challenge, immigration, and national identity. *Popul Res Policy Rev* 25, 465–477 (2006). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-006-9014-5>

Week 13: From “ghetto” to “trendy”: The impact of demographics and gentrification.

This week will be dedicated to debating how demographics can affect immigrants’ lives. We will once again look at the map with a critical approach, but this time focusing on aspects such as gentrification, taking into account how this can impact neighborhoods with a majority of immigrants.

Readings:

Eksner, Julia. “Revisiting the ‘Ghetto’ in the New Berlin Republic: Immigrant Youths, Territorial Stigmatisation and the Devaluation of Local Educational Capital, 1999–2010.” *Social Anthropology* 21, no. 2 (August 2013): 336–55. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1469-8676.12032>

Ayşe S. Çağlar (2001) Constraining metaphors and the transnationalisation of spaces in Berlin, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 27:4, 601-613, DOI: 10.1080/13691830120090403

Week 14: Immigrant Stories project and class wrap-up and feedback on the course.

We will start working on the class’ final assignment. The final assignment will be a written paper of approx. 25,00 characters including spaces. We will discuss possible topics and how to execute them in class, so we are all on the same page. Like that we can make sure students from different fields will all have a common base.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Registration on Moodle (HU’s e-learning platform)

in case of online sessions

- Fully functional device (laptop, tablet, PC)
- Stable internet connection
- Software: Zoom (video/audio)
- *Recommended* hardware: external headset for better sound quality

EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

Preparation for lively discussions: be on time, have at least the required readings completed, and points in mind for discussion or clarification.

Assignments: complete all assignments according to the specified requirements on the schedule including handing them over to the lecturer.

Commitment: pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions in this international classroom.

Academic guidelines: Comply with academic integrity policies. Plagiarism in even a small assignment will result in failing the entire course.

Attendance policy: Students must contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the lecturer.

The course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: 27 March 2023