



## An Immigrant Story

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Winter Semester 2021/22: 18 October 2021 - 19 February 2022

### CATEGORY

Migration and Identity

### COURSE STRUCTURE

2 contact hours à 45 min per week (winter semester: 16 weeks)

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

#### Time

Wednesday, 14-16 c.t. (2.15 pm – 3.45 pm)

#### Place

Hausvogteiplatz 5-7, 10117 Berlin  
Room 0323-26

### COURSE LANGUAGE

**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).

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

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

### in case of online classes

- 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 (classmates', lecturers).

**Academic guidelines:** Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical) especially the academic honor code and the student code of conduct.

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

## 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, is now home for so many immigrants? In this class we will explore the history and the laws behind it and, even more, we will hear the stories first hand from 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 neighbourhoods and interviews with immigrants, this class aims to give a more in depth, first hand insight on 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

### 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 (20% of final grade)
  - Class participation (10% of final grade)
  - Final assignment, which consists of a written paper. (70% of final grade)

Failure to fulfil 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 conducting research in the field of 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, a 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.

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## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1: Introductory class.**

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

### **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 creating a map of Berlin based off of our perception. Presentation of the actual map.

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

A 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 it changed thorough the last century.

Reading:

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.

### **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 naturalisation and visa regulations: why does it matter?

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

Video about Moria. Contextualisation 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.

Reading:

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:

Bodvarsson Ö.B., Van den Berg H. (2013) Why People Immigrate: The Evidence. In: The Economics of Immigration. Springer, New York, NY. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4614-2116-0\\_3](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4614-2116-0_3)

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 analyse.

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.

## **Week 8: 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.

Reading:

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.

## **Week 9: Exploring the city and grounding history.**

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

### **Week 10: History of immigrants - archives, articles and videos.**

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

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

Tunay Altay, Gökçe Yurdakul & Anna C. Korteweg (2021) Crossing borders: the intersectional marginalisation 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: History of immigrants - archives, articles and videos.**

Living history: videos about refugee's experiences and student's 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>.

### **Week 12: Living History.**

"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 13: Geography of immigration in Berlin.**

Now that we have analysed 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 this 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 14: From “ghetto” to “trendy: “The impact of demographics and gentrification.**

This week will be dedicated to debating how the demographics can affect immigrant’s 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 neighbourhoods 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 15: Immigrant Storie’s project.**

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 it 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.

## **Week 16: Immigrant Storie’s project.**

On this class we will continue the work of the previous class. Students will have the chance to present the first draft of their project/ideas.

## **Week 17: Immigrant Storie’s project.**

Individual consultation for the final assignment. Students will have the opportunity to talk individually about any problems/difficulties they have.

## **Week 18: Class wrap up.**

Class wrap up and feedback on the course.

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The course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: 20 August 2021