SO145 Legal and Illegal Migration in Germany Since World War II

Seminar Leader: Dr. Marion Detjen
Course Times: Wed 9:00-12:15
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Office Hours: Tue 9:00-15:00

Course Description

This course is an introduction to post-War migration history in Germany, with a special focus on “legal” and “illegal” migration and the discourses, policies and concepts of legality that shaped this distinction. In the first half of the term, we will seek to understand why Germany finds it so difficult to conceive of itself as an immigration country. We also examine what kind of migration regimes the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic developed after the Second World War. As we will see, these regimes emerged within the framework of the division and subsequent unification of the two German states, and within a wider European and global context. What means of entry and exit were allowed in the period under examination? What kinds of status were accorded to migrants and refugees, and how did these alter under pressure from changing economic and political exigencies? In the second half of the course we will explore how the various parties involved dealt with the restrictions and the loopholes of the law, often combining “legal” with “illegal” means. We will compare the phenomenon of Fluchthelfer (“escape helpers,” dubbed Menschenhändler by the East German government) with people-smuggling at the European borders today, and we will discuss the connections between the fight against “organized immigration crime” and current negotiations for resettlement programs.

The course offers insight into a broad range of methods of migration research and draws on both published and unpublished sources. We will interview experts on border crossings, work on a case study, and make excursions to the Berlin Wall Museum at Bernauer Straße and the NGO Flüchtlingspaten Syrien e.V. At the end of the term, you will be asked to present your own project in a visualised form, using presentation software like Prezi, or film, or collage. Your project can if you wish be continued next term in a “research-creation” class as a more elaborate work of art.

Requirements

Academic Integrity
Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.
**Attendance**
Attendance at ALL classes is expected. More than two absences (that is absences from two sessions of 90 minutes) in a semester will significantly affect the participation grade for the course. Please consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing periods of illness or leaves of absence.

**Participation**
Due to the experimental character of the course your consistent, active and thoughtful participation is especially important. Class sessions will include brainstormings, discussions, presentations, writing and reading periods, and you will be asked to work alone, with a partner or in a group.

**Assignments and requirements**
The reading assignments will add up to 30-50 pages a week. The texts will all be uploaded on Google Drive in a Google Class. You will be asked to submit written reflections of your readings before every class.

As Midterm Paper, due October 7, you will hand in a conceptual paper of ca. 1500 words outlining your individual project (a biographical case study, an analysis of an event or an analysis of an art work).

At one point you will present your project to the class.

Your Final Project will consist of two parts:
1) A written piece, a film or photographs/collages that will contribute to a Prezi Presentation or a Website as a collaborative outcome of our class, due December 9.
2) An academic essay of ca. 3000 words, due December 31.

All written texts must be submitted through the Bard College Berlin online system. Late submissions will significantly affect your grade. Please consult the Student Handbook for regulations governing late submissions.

**Grade Breakdown**

Participation in classroom and communication with the professor and with each other: 20%

Written reflections of your readings: 20%

Midterm conceptual paper: 20%

Visual or written contribution to the Website or Prezi: 20%

Final Essay: 20%
Schedule

**September 5, 2018 - Introduction or: Can Creon and Antigone both be right?**

Readings:

**September 12, 2018 – Terminology, Theory, Events**

Reading:

**September 19, 2018 – An Unholy Alliance: Migration Control and the Sovereign Nation State**

Readings:

Visit to the Bard College Berlin Library

**September 26, 2018 – Foreigners and Germans and Some People in Between: The West-German Constitution 1949**

Reading:

Lunch-Session: Friday, September 28, 18 – Visit of Nanni Bihali, from Act Alliance, Brussels

**October 10, 2018 – International Law: „The Making of the Modern Refugee“**

Reading:

**October 17, 2018 Not an Immigration Country – The „Guest Workers“ Regime**

Reading:

**October 24, 2018 „Refugees of the Republic“ - Excursion to the Berlin Wall Museum**

Reading:

**November 7, 2018 Illegalisation and Legalisation Policies in Post-1990 Germany**

Reading:

**November 14, 2018 „Fortress Europe“, „Crimmigration“ and the „Illegality Industry“**

Reading:

**November 21, 2018 „Inside Migration Law“: The Ausländerbehörden**

Reading:

**November 28, 2018 Lifesavers, escape helpers and people smugglers**

Readings (don’t worry, they are short):


December 5, 2018 – Legal Pathways or No Border Politics: Excursion to the Flüchtlingspaten Syrien

Reading:

December 12, 2018 Closing Session

Reading:
• Buckels, Sonja, Fabian Georgi, John Kannankulam and Jens Wissel: The European Border Regime in Crisis. Theory, Methods and Analyses in Critical European Studies, Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, Studien 8/2017