

# SO284 CULTURES OF MIGRATION

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Office Hours: Tuesday 14:00 - 15:30 or by appointment

## Course Description

This course focuses on cultural practices, forms, and spaces that emerge through migration experiences. In this course, we will critically address a range of concepts and debates that are significant to the study of migration including belonging, transnationalism, translocality, cosmopolitanism, multiculturalism, diversity, and postmigrant as well as the key concepts of culture, place, identity, and mobility. We will discuss production and transformation of cultures of migration through studies on urban spaces of encounter and conviviality, solidarity and activism, cultural practices across media, music, and cinema, affective and emotional practices, and exilic cultural production. We will draw mainly on anthropological approaches to migration and ethnographic case studies with a special attention to Berlin. By avoiding the confined idea of “migrant” cultures, we will explore how the unbounded, complex, fluid, and plural cultural spheres that are created through migration shape and reshape societies.

## Requirements

### Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the highest standards of academic integrity and expects students to adhere to these standards at all times. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

### Attendance

Attendance at all classes is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, two absences from twice-per-week courses or the equivalent (e.g. one absence from a once-per-week course) should not affect the participation grade or require documentation.

Bard College Berlin does not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FALL 2021: Some students may need to begin the semester remotely

due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic. In addition, all students and instructors must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill. Instructors should make efforts to offer alternatives to in-person attendance where needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options.

### Assessment & Assignments

Essay I (due Oct 4): Write an essay on your personal experience or observation of a particular case of migration. Discuss your case through the relevant theoretical concepts and debates that are addressed in the class. You are free to focus on any aspect of the case of migration you choose. (1700 – 2000 words)

Essay II (due Nov 1): Write an essay on an urban space where you had the chance to observe diversity that is brought about by migrations (in Berlin or another city). Explore the form(s) of encounters, conviviality, solidarity, or activism that emerge in this particular space. Relate your discussion to the relevant theoretical and/or empirical accounts of migration that are addressed in the class. (1700 – 2000 words)

Essay III (due Dec 13): Write an essay on a particular cultural text that expresses migration experiences across any medium (e.g. art, media, film, literature, music, etc.). Relate your analysis of the cultural text to the relevant theoretical and/or empirical accounts of migration that are addressed in the class. You are free to focus on any aspect of the cultural text you choose. (1700 – 2000 words)

All essays are required to be presented in class (see the course schedule). Presentations will take place before essay submissions so that you will be able to discuss your essay with your classmates and receive feedbacks. Non-fulfillment of the presentation requirement without an excused absence results in 20% reduction of the essay grade.

Participation in classes is essential. You are expected to read the assigned texts before classes and participate in discussions and in-class writing activities. All assigned texts are available in the course reader.

### Policy on Late Submission of Papers

Essays that are up to 24 hours late can be downgraded up to one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment. Grades and comments will be returned to students in a timely fashion. Students are also entitled to make an appointment to discuss essay assignments and feedback during instructors' office hours.

Students receive mid- and end-of-semester grades for their seminar work. Students are entitled to make an appointment with an instructor to discuss seminar participation, or may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

## Grade Breakdown

Participation: 30% (15% for weeks 1-7 and 15% for weeks 8-14)

Essay I: 20%

Essay II: 25%

Essay III: 25%

## Schedule

Week 1 (Aug 31 & Sep 2): Course introduction and class discussion on mobility

Week 2 (Sep 7 & 9): Place, culture, and mobility

- Gupta, A., & Ferguson, J. (1992). Beyond “culture”: Space, identity, and the politics of difference. *Cultural anthropology*, 7(1), 6-23.
- Greiner, C., & Sakdapolrak, P. (2013). Translocality: Concepts, applications and emerging research perspectives. *Geography compass*, 7(5), 373-384.

Week 3 (Sep 14 & 16): Cosmopolitanism and the critique of methodological nationalism

- Beck, U., & Sznaider, N. (2006). Unpacking cosmopolitanism for the social sciences: a research agenda. *The British journal of sociology*, 57(1), 1-23.
- Delanty, G. (2006). The cosmopolitan imagination: Critical cosmopolitanism and social theory. *The British journal of sociology*, 57(1), 25-47.

Week 4 (Sep 21 & 23): Postmigrant societies

- Römhild, R. (2017). Beyond the bounds of the ethnic: For postmigrant cultural and social research. *Journal of Aesthetics & Culture*, 9(2), 69-75.

- Kosnick, K. (2016). Cosmopolitan capital or multicultural community? Reflections on the production and management of differential mobilities in Germany's capital city. In *Cosmopolitanism in Practice* (pp. 161-180). Routledge.

Week 5 (Sep 28 & 30): In-class presentation and discussion of essay I.

Week 6 (Oct 5 & 7): Urban spaces of encounter and conviviality

- Nowicka, M. and Vertovec, S. (2014). "Comparing convivialities: dreams and realities of living-with difference." *European journal of cultural studies*, 17: 341–356.
- Wessendorf, S. (2014). "'Being open, but sometimes closed'. Conviviality in a super-diverse London neighbourhood." *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, 17(4): 392-405.

Week 7 (Oct 12 & 14): Solidarity and activism

- Mekdjian, S. (2018). Urban activism and migrations: Disrupting spatial and political segregation of migrants in European cities. *Cities*, 77, 39-48.
- Hamann, U., & Türkmen, C. (2020). Communities of struggle: The making of a protest movement around housing, migration and racism beyond identity politics in Berlin. *Territory, Politics, Governance*, 8(4), 515-531.

Week 8 (Oct 26 & 28): In-class presentation and discussion of essay II.

Week 9 (Nov 2 & 4): Affective and emotional experiences

- Wise, A., & Velayutham, S. (2017). Transnational affect and emotion in migration research. *International Journal of Sociology*, 47(2), 116-130.
- Savaş, Ö. (2019). Affective digital media of new migration from Turkey: Feelings, affinities, and politics. *International Journal of Communication*, 13, 22.

Week 10 (Nov 9 & 11): Affective practices of belonging

- De Martini Ugolotti, N. (2020). Music-making and forced migrants' affective practices of diasporic belonging. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 1-18.

- Garcia, L. M. (2015). At home, I'm a tourist: Musical migration and affective citizenship in Berlin. *Journal of Urban Cultural Studies*, 2(1-2), 121-134.

Week 11 (Nov 16 & 18): Exilic expressions

- Arendt, H. (2017). We refugees. In *International refugee law* (pp. 3-12). Routledge.
- Andringa, E. (2011). Poetics of emotion in times of agony: Letters from exile, 1933–1940. *Poetics Today*, 32(1), 129-169.

Week 12 (Nov 23 & 25): Exile, exit and cultural production

- Said, E. W. (1993). Intellectual exile: expatriates and marginals. *Grand Street*, 112-124.
- Heins, V. M. (2020). Can the refugee speak? Albert Hirschman and the changing meanings of exile. *Thesis Eleven*, 158(1), 42-57.

Week 13 (Nov 30 & Dec 2): Film screening and guest lecture

Week 14 (Dec 7 & 9): In-class presentation and discussion of essay III.