

HI146 Migration History in Germany

Seminar Leaders: Marion Detjen
Course Times: Wed 9:00-12:15
Email: m.detjen@berlin.bard.edu
Office Hours: Tue 10:00-13:00

Course Description

This course is an introduction to twentieth- and twenty-first-century migration history in Germany, which was, in spite of constant migration movements, for a long time widely neglected by German historiography. We will seek to understand why Germany found it so difficult to conceive of itself as an immigration country and what kind of migration regimes it developed after the Second World War, under the conditions of German separation and reunification and in a European and global context. This will lead us to ask broader questions about how history is being written and what aims and interests it serves. How do personal and collective experience shape historical knowledge, and what is the relationship between politics and history? How many narratives can be formed out of one basic chronology, and how do we find the appropriate categories for analysing and interpreting our source material? What tools do we need to critically assess a source? The sources are not restricted to written documents, as we will use the city of Berlin with its rich landscape of memorials and museums as our material and hear the testimony of contemporary witnesses.

Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during the entire class time, including off-campus trips. They will be allowed to be used only during breaks.
- Be prepared to present assignments / presentations without reminder.
- Engage in critiques and discussions.
- Initiate appointments with Professors or arts staff outside of class time when assistance is necessary.
- Respond to emails from Professors in a timely manner.

Participation

The discursive character of the class relies on your consistent, active and thoughtful participation. Class sessions will include brainstormings, discussions, presentations, writing and reading periods. You will be asked to work alone, with a partner or in a group.

Attendance

- Attendance of ALL classes and excursions is expected. Students are expected to attend all off-campus classes punctually, from start to finish. If there is a scheduling / travel conflict, Professor must be informed in advance.
- Absences should be limited to health problems or emergencies, close family functions or emergencies, and observance of major religious holidays. Whenever possible, please inform us about any potential absence in advance. More than one absence (that is, absence from one three-hour session per week) in a semester might significantly affect the participation grade for the course.
- Tardiness after ten minutes can be considered an absence.

Assignments, assessment and grade breakdown

The reading assignments will add up to 50 pages a week. The texts will all be uploaded in the Google Classroom of the Seminar, and there is a selection of books relevant to the class on a reserved shelf in the library.

Active participation in class discussions and communication with students and teacher: 20% of your grade

Presentation in class and submission, on the night before class, of a short (500 words) summary of presented work: 20% of your grade

Midterm Essay of ca. 2000 words, based on the analysis of a historical source, due October 27: 20% of your grade.

Final project: 40% of your grade

The final project can be EITHER a paper of ca. 3000 words plus a poster, OR a paper of ca. 1000 words plus an artistic project – a film, a series of photographs, a piece of music or else – that is explained and commented on by the paper.

A proposal of 800 words for your final project is due by November 24, the finished project is due January 1st.

Policy on Late Submission of Texts / Artworks / Presentations

Assignments that are up to 24 hours late can be downgraded one full grade (Example: B+ becomes C+). Professors are not obliged to accept assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where Professors agree to accept a late assignment, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and might not receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student might receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Schedule (may be subject to change at any time)

1) September 4: Introduction

Readings:

- „Germany and Immigration. The Changing Face of the Country“, by DER SPIEGEL staff,
<https://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/germany-and-immigration-the-changing-face-of-the-country-a-1203143.html>.
- Richard Evans: What is History?, in: David Cannadine (Ed.): What is History Now? (2002), pp. 1-18.
(There is a nice summary on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkdzu8X84fo>.)

2) September 11: The Basic and the Encyclopedic

Readings:

- Jenny Gesley: Germany: The Development of Migration and Citizenship Law in Postwar Germany, The Law Library of Congress, Global Legal Research Center, March 2017.
- Klaus J. Bade et. al.: Germany, in: The Encyclopedia of Migration and Minorities in Europe from the 17th Century to the Present (2011), pp. 65-81.

3) September 18: „Salad Bowls“ and Histories of Progress and Decline

Reading:

- Jan Plamper: The New We. Why Migration is No Problem: A Different History of the Germans [an English summary of the book, that awaits translation from German, by the S. Fischer Verlage],
https://www.fischerverlage.de/media/fs/690/Plamper_Das%20neue%20Wir_sample%20English.pdf

To be watched on Youtube:

- AfD-politician and philosopher Marc Jongen's lecture at the Hannah Arendt Center's 10th annual conference, „Crises of Democracy: Thinking in Dark Times“, at Bard College Annandale, October 12th, 2017, introduced and moderated by Roger Berkowitz, on a panel with Ian Buruma,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UUCt_48xzms

At 12 o'clock we will join a lunch talk with the Syrian writer Mustafa Khalifa, on his book „The Shell: Memoirs of a Hidden Observer“ (2016), probably in the Lecture Hall.

4) September 25: Migrant Diasporas and Liberal Historians before 1945

Reading:

– Christhard Hoffmann: Ancient Jewry – Modern Questions: German Historians of Antiquity on the Jewish Diaspora, in: Illinois Classical Studies 20(1995), pp. 191-207.

Excursion to the Permanent Exhibition of the German Historical Museum

(<https://www.dhm.de/en/ausstellungen/permanent-exhibition.html>), address: Unter den Linden 2.

5) October 2: The Postwar Turmoils and the new New International Order

Readings:

– Peter Gatrell: The Making of the Modern Refugee (2013), pp. 89-117.

Film:

– „Report on the Refugee Situation, January 1949“, by Rudolf Kipp,
<https://apps.medienberatung.online/asylrecht/filmsichtung/index.html>.

6) October 9: Contested Asylum

Readings:

- Patrice Poutrus: The Right to Asylum in West Germany: Refugee Policies in the Federal Republic of Germany, 1949–1975, in: Rainer Huhle (Ed.): Human Rights and History: A Challenge for Education (2010), pp. 106-112.

- Kay Hailbronner: Asylum Law Reform in the German Constitution, in: American University International Law Review, 9(1994), pp. 159-179.

(- Monika Bösche: Trapped Inside the European Fortress? Germany and European Union Asylum and Refugee Policy, in: Gunther Hellmann (Ed.): Germany's EU Policy on Asylum and Defence. De-Europeanization by Default? (2006), pp. 29-90.)

Visit of Patrice Poutrus, migration historian who recently published a book in German on the history of Asylum in postwar Germany – Patrice Poutrus: Umkämpftes Asyl: Vom Nachkriegsdeutschland bis in die Gegenwart (2019).

7) October 16: The Emergence of the European Work Migration System

– Emmanuel Comte: The History of the European Migration Regime. Germany's Strategic Hegemony (2018), pp. 1-41.

8) October 23: Migration from the GDR

– Eric H. Limbach: Unsettled Germans. The Reception and Resettlement of East German Refugees in West Germany, 1949-1961 (2011), pp. 1-16.

– Erika von Hornstein: Beyond the Berlin Wall by Refugees who have fled to the West (1962), pp. 53-56 „The village shop“, pp. 57-60 „The blacksmith“, pp. 61-63 „letter to a brother“, pp. 157-160 „Quite ordinary people“.

Visit to the Exhibition and the Grounds of the Marienfelde Refugee Center Museum

(<http://www.notaufnahmelager-berlin.de/en/>), address: Marienfelder Allee 66-84. We will have a talk with the eye-witness Albrecht Roos.

- Spring Break -

9) November 6: The „Guest Worker“ Regime

Reading:

- Deniz Göktürk et. al.: Germany in Transit. Nation and Migration 1955-2005 (2007), pp. 21-63.
- Ayse S. Caglar: German turks in Berlin: social exclusion and strategies for social mobility, in: new community 21(1995), pp. 309-323.

Film:

„Ali: Fear eats Soul“ (1974) by Rainer Werner Fassbinder

Field trip to „Turkish“ Kreuzberg and the private museum of the Soika family.

10) November 13: Citizenship, Integration and Belonging

- Jan Palmowski: In Search of the German Nation: Citizenship and the Challenge of Integration, in: Citizenship Studies 12(2008), pp. 547-563.

11) November 20: Inside Migration Law

- Tobias G. Eule: Inside Immigration Law. Migration Management and Policy Application in Germany (2014), pp. 1-19, 103-119.

12) November 27: The Legal/Illegal

Reading:

- Bastian Vollmer: Policy Discourses on Irregular Migration in Germany and the United Kingdom (2004), pp. 1-22.
- Serhat Karakayali: Illegal Migration in Post-Fordism, in Yolande Jansen et. al. (Ed.): The Irregularization of Migration in Contemporary Europe. Detention, Deportation, Drowning (2015), pp. 31-52.

13) December 4: The Diasporas' Challenges

Alexander Clarkson: *Fragmented Fatherland. Immigration and Cold War Conflict in the Federal Republic of Germany 1945-1980*, pp. 1-16, 151-175.

December 6 evening we will have a public panel discussion with Alexander Clarkson and others on the topic of political diasporas in Germany, venue still to be announced.

14) December 11: Closing Session