

GE/AN 313 –Bio-Politics and Migration

IES Abroad Berlin

DESCRIPTION:

This course aims at introducing students to the concept of bio-politics: its origins, and its modern forms in national and increasingly global perspectives. Students will discuss the notion of population and the regulation of the body in contexts of gender, race, ethnicity, and class. We analyze atrocities of violent expulsion, war, and humanitarian aid, as well as health and gender policies as part of conflicts and the neoliberal economy. We will use examples from national policies to international conflict intervention, from anti and pro-natalist policies to thanatology and burial rights, from regulations on migration and asylum to intended and unintended side effects of modern humanitarianism. Using some of the theoretical groundwork from social theorists such as Michael Foucault, Giorgio Agamben, Silvia Federici, Melinda Cooper, or Didier Fassin the course aims to delineate the interrelation between techniques of the governance of bodies and forms of knowledge strategies to uncover the hidden matrix of political power. The course offers an interdisciplinary approach to old and new forms of power regimes and governance. It incorporates field trips, films, and exhibitions on the topic into the discussion.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English

ADDITIONAL COST: none

PREREQUISITES: none

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Lectures, class discussions, guided field trips, student presentations, films and documentaries in class. Classes are based on required literature. The literature is drawn from sociology, history studies, social anthropology, geography, philosophy and political science. Students will be asked to participate in class discussion to develop critical arguments and discussion skills and to understand the political discourse on population.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Discuss how the concept of bio-politics can open new perspectives to understand power relations in international and national politics
- Discuss the struggle of state and non-state actors in crisis management.
- Explain how politics is inscribed into the body of modern populations and individuals.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course Participation – 10 %
- Case Study Assignment 15%
- Midterm – 25%
- In Class Presentation – 20 %
- Final Exam (presentation, paper, response paper) -30%

Course Participation:

Students must do the mandatory reading assignments, come to class prepared and participate in discussions, take active part in the field trips and complete written/oral work. The grading rubric for participation is available in the IES Berlin Academics Manual on Moodle.

Midterm:

Short written in class exam. Connected to the readings (especially Agamben and Foucault) and the topics discussed in class.

**Final:**

Student conference with presentations on topics to the overall theme of the course plus response papers on the presentations of the other students. 70% of the grade is the own presentation; 30% the response paper. See grading rubrics in Moodle.

Case study assignment:

Academic paper of about 1,500 words (8000 – 10000 characters) related to one of the major themes/field trips discussed in class by applying your knowledge to a specific (self-chosen) subject. For specifics and literature see: Moodle “Case study”. It is recommended to submit your paper as early as possible in Moodle after the Midterm. Potential topics: the Sachsenhausen concentration camp as a bio-political space of exception; cases of ethnic cleansing and genocides; politics of expulsion and forced deportations or topics related to reproductive medicine or health in a wider sense as well as environmental issues (for example food deserts, environmental racism, redlining etc.) : Due at the end of week 10.

Class Presentation: At least: one class presentation of one of the suggested topics. between 7 – 10 minutes. A list of topics will be distributed in the beginning of the course. See also Syllabus. *Presentation format:* Power point; speak up to class, organize material well; give sources; presentation should encourage class discussion, therefore ask questions to the teacher and class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

For our up-to-date attendance and exam policy, see: <https://moodle.iesabroad.org/mod/page/view.php?id=1004317>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

(see IES Berlin policy)

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Readings
<u>Week 1</u>	Session 1: What is “Biopolitics”? Introduction to course, literature, requirements	No Reading for first session.
	Session 2: Field Trip: Museum of Charité Hospital (Berlin University Hospital)	
<u>Week 2</u>	Session 3: The Medical Gaze/Birth of the Hospital	Foucault, Michel, The Birth of Social Medicine, in: The Essential Works of Michel Foucault, vol. 3, Power, pp. 134 – 155 Student Presentation: The Birth of Social Medicine
	Session 4: Disciplining the Female Body	Federici, Silvia (2004) The Great Witch Hunt in Europe, in: Caliban and the Witch. New York, Autonomedia, pp. 163 -
<u>Week 3</u>	Session 5: Population Politics: Gender Norms and Global Realities	Randeria, Shalini (2009) Malthus vs. Condorcet. Population Policy, Gender and Culture from an Ethnological Perspective, in: Berking/Zolkos (eds), Between Life and Death, pp. 25 – 41. Presentation on Gender Norms and Cultural/ Gender Expectations in the context of population politics
	Session 6: Michel Foucault and the Concept of Bio-power – Racism and Class	- Lemke, Thomas (2011) Bio-politics. An Advanced Introduction. New York. NYU Press, pp. 33 – 52. - Foucault, Michel ([1976]2003) Society Must be Defended. Lecture 11 from 17 March 1976, Picador/Pan Books Limited, New York, pp. 239 – 264
<u>Week 4</u>	Session 7: Bare Life – Giorgio Agamben and Homo Sacer	Lemke, Thomas (2011) Sovereign Power and Bare Life. Giorgio Agamben, In: Lemke, Thomas Biopolitics. An Advanced Introduction. New York. NYU Press, pp. 53 – 64

	Session 8: Reproductive Medicine and its Consequences – Desirable Whiteness in Black Bodies	- Walby, Catherine & Cooper, Melinda (2006) The Biopolitics of Reproduction, Global Biopolitics Research Papers No 15, October, pp. 1-34 <u>Recommended (for presentation):</u> - Rudrappa, Sharmila (2017) Reproducing Dystopia: The Politics of Transnational Surrogacy in India, 2002–2015, Critical Sociology, pp. 1-15 Or: - Pande, Amrita (2021) Mix or Match? Transnational Fertility Industry and White Desirability, Medical Anthropology, vol 40/4, pp.335-347 Student presentation on surrogacy and global reproductive markets
Week 5	Session 9: When Organs Travel – Neoliberal colonialism and autocratic statehood in organ trade and theft	Scheper-Hughes, Nancy (2002) The Ends of the Body: Commodity Fetishism and the Global Traffic in Organs, SAIS Review vol. XXII no. 1 (Winter-Spring), pp. 61 – 80 Student Presentation on Organ Trade
	Session 10: Body Politics – Rape, Gendercide, and War	- Diken, Bülent and Lausten-Bagge, Carsten (2005) Becoming Abject: Rape as Weapon of War, Body & Society Vol. 11(1): 111–128 - Mookherjee, Nayanika (2009). Available motherhood: Legal technologies, ‘state of exception’ and the dekinning of ‘war babies’ in Bangladesh. In Between Life and Death, pp. 267-283. - Grossmann, Atina (2011) The "Big Rape": Post-World War II Memory and Imagination. In: Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones, ed. Elisabeth D. Heinemann, UoPennsylvania Press, pp.237-290 - Snyder, Timothy (2023) Russia’s eugenic war. Thinking about ... (online version) Jan 7, 2023 Student presentation on readings.
Excursion	Session 11-12: Field Trip to Sachsenhausen concentration camp	Jones, Adam (2011) Genocide. A Comprehensive Introduction. pp. 8 – 12 See case study assignment on field trip in Moodle.
Week 6:	Midterm Exam – in class exam	
Week 7	Session 13/14: Field Trip to SA Prison Papestraße and Heavy Load Bearing Body	

<u>Week 8</u>	Session 15: After-Life: Governmentality of Corpses	• Chu, Julie Y. (2009) <i>Departing China: Identification Papers and the Pursuit of Burial Rights in Fuzhou</i>. In: Berking, S./ Zolkos, M. eds., <i>Between Life and Death; Governing Populations in the Era of Human Rights</i>. Frankfurt: Peter Lang. pp 199 – 218 • Anstett, Elisabeth (2014) <i>An Anthropological Approach to Human Remains from the Gulag</i>, in: <i>Human Remains and Mass Violence</i>, Univ. of Manchester Press, pp. 181-198. <u>Recommended (for presentation):</u> • Balkan, Osman (2015) <i>Burial and Belonging</i>. <i>Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism</i>, vol 15/1, pp. 120 -134. Student Presentation on Burial Rights in Germany and Muslim funeral /burial practice
	Session 16: Field Trip to Berlin Cemetery Old St. Matthew's Churchyard	
<u>Week 9</u>	Session 17: Working Bodies – Labor Migration	• Kolinsky, Eva (2007) <i>Between State Socialism and Democracy, 1989-1993. Former Contract Workers from Vietnam in Eastern Germany</i>, <i>gfl-journal</i>, No. 3/2004, pp. 83-1001 • Get informed on labor migration in the West of Germany – especially Turkish Labor migration. Student Presentation on Labor Migration to Germany (Turkish in West/ Vietnamese in the East)
	Session 18: Citizenship Law as Bio-Politics	• Schinkel, Willem (2010) <i>From Zoopolitics to Biopolitics: Citizenship and the Construction of 'Society'</i>, <i>European Journal of Social Theory</i>, vol. 13, 155-171 <u>Recommended:</u> • Joppke, Christian (2008) <i>Comparative Citizenship: A Restrictive Turn in Europe? Law and Ethics of Human Rights</i> 2 (1):1-41 Student presentation on German/French Citizenship Law
<u>Week 10</u>	Session 19: Asylum Law and its Changes after 1989	• Davitti, Daria (2019) <i>Biopolitical Borders and the State of Exception in the European Migration 'Crisis'</i>, <i>European Journal of International Law</i>, vol 29/4, pp.1173-1196 Student Presentation on Schengen Treaty, the Dublin Convention, and the current asylum debate; group work on the different statuses of asylum – full/political asylum/protection under Geneva 1951 refugee convention, subsidiary protection; protection from deportation

	Session 20 Humanitarianism and Bio-Politics	- Fassin, Didier (2013) <i>The Precarious Truth of Asylum</i>, in: <i>Public Culture</i> vol 25.1 pp. 39 – 63 <u>Recommended:</u> - Ticktin, Miriam (2017) <i>A world without innocence</i>, <i>American Ethnologist</i>, vol 44/4 pp.576-590 Student Presentation: on Humanitarianism (on the reading – Fassin and Ticktin)
Week 11:	Session 21: Individual Consultation for final presentations – TBA (individual meetings)	
Week 12	Session 22+23: Student Conference –Final Presentations	Student conference/ final presentations - Potential Topics: see Moodle

FIELD TRIPS:

- Concentration Camp Memorial Sachsenhausen
- Charité Berlin Museum for Medical History / Places of Remembrance / or German Cemetery
- Historical Cemetery St. Matthew
- Exhibition on Expulsion and Displacement/ or SA Prison Papestraße

REQUIRED READINGS (see also session plan)

- Anstett, Elisabeth (2014) *An Anthropological Approach to Human Remains from the Gulag*, in: *Human Remains and Mass Violence*, Univ. of Manchester Press, pp. 181-198.
- Berking, Sabine and Zolkos, Magdalena (2009) (eds) *Between Life and Death. Governing Population in an Era of Human Rights*, Frankfurt/Main New York, Peter Lang Publishers. Frank (Chapters see details in course sessions)
- Chu, Julie Y. (2009) *Departing China: Identification Papers and the Pursuit of Burial Rights in Fuzhou*. In: Berking, S./ Zolkos, M. eds., *Between Life and Death; Governing Populations in the Era of Human Rights*. Frankfurt: Peter Lang. pp 199 – 218
- Davitti, Daria (2019) 'Crisis', *European Journal of International Law*, vol 29/4, pp.1173-1196
- Diken, Bülent and Lausten-Bagge, Carsten (2005) *Becoming Abject: Rape as Weapon of War*, *Body & Society* Vol. 11(1): 111–128
- Fassin, Didier (2013) *The Precarious Truth of Asylum*, in: *Public Culture* vol 25.1 pp. 39 - 63
- Foucault, Michael ([1976]2003) *Society Must be Defended*. Lecture 11 from 17 March 1976, New York, Picador/Pan Books Limited, pp. 239 – 264
- Foucault, Michel (1977/2002) *The Birth of Social Medicine*, in: *The Essential Works of Michel Foucault 1954-85*, vol. 3, Power, Penguin Book, London, pp. 134 - 155
- Foucault, Michel (1978) *Right of Death and Power over Life*, in: *The History of Sexuality, An Introduction*, transl. by Hurley, R., New York, Pantheon Books, pp. 133 – 160
- Grossmann, Atina (2011) *The "Big Rape": Post-World War II Memory and Imagination*. In: *Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones*, ed. Elisabeth D. Heibemann, UoPennsylvania Press, pp.237-290
- Jones, Adam (2011) *Genocide. A Comprehensive Introduction*. 2nd. Edition, Routledge London and NY.
- Joppke, Christian (2008) *Comparative Citizenship: A Restrictive Turn in Europe?* *Law and Ethics of Human Rights* 2 (1):1-41
- Lemke, Thomas (2011) *Biopolitics. An Advanced Introduction*, NYU Press, pp. 33 - 64
- Mookherjee, Nayanika (2009). *Available motherhood: Legal technologies, 'state of exception' and the dekinning of 'war babies' in Bangladesh*. In *Between Life and Death*, pp. 267-283.
- Pande, Amrita (2021) *Mix or Match? Transnational Fertility Industry and White Desirability*, *Medical Anthropology*, vol 40/4, pp.335-347

- Topak, Özgün E (2014) The biopolitical border in practice: surveillance and death at the Greece–Turkey borderzones. Society and Space 2014, volume 32, pp. 815 – 833
- Randeria, Shalini (2009) Malthus vs. Condorcet. Population Policy, Gender and Culture from an Ethnological Perspective, in: Berking/Zolkos (eds), Between Life and Death, pp. 25 – 41.
- Scheper-Hughes, Nancy (2002) The Ends of the Body: Commodity Fetishism and the Global Traffic in Organs SAIS Review vol. XXII no. 1 (Winter-Spring), pp. 61-80
- Schinkel, Willem (2010) From Zoepolitics to Biopolitics: Citizenship and the Construction of ‘Society’, European Journal of Social Theory, vol. 13, 155-171
- Snyder, Timothy (2023) Russia’s eugenic war. Thinking about ... (online version) Jan 7, 2023 <https://snyder.substack.com/p/russias-eugenic-war> (Accessed Jan 10,2023)
- Ticktin, Miriam (2017) A world without innocence, American Ethnologist, vol 44/4 pp.576-590
- Urdal, H. A Clash of Generations? Youth Bulges and Political Violence UN Expert Group 21/22 July 2011
- Walby, Catherine & Cooper, Melinda (2006) The Biopolitics of Reproduction, Global Biopolitics Research Papers No 15, October.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED FILM:

- In this World (2002) by Winterbottom, Michael
 - A Woman in Berlin (2008) by Färberböck, Max
 - Life is Beautiful (1997) by Begnini, Robert
- The films are available at IES

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Agamben, Giorgio (1998) Homo Sacer. Sovereign Power and Bare Life, Transl. by Daniel Heller-Roazen. Stanford University Press
- Cooper, Melinda (2008) Life as Surplus. Biotechnology and Capitalism in the Neoliberal Era, Univ of Washington Press.
- Butler, Judith (2019) Precarious Life: The Power of Mourning and Violence, Verso Books, London
- Cooper, Melinda (2008) Life as a Surplus. Biotechnology and Capitalism in a Neoliberal Age. UoWashington Press
- Fassin, Didier (ed) (2012) A Companion to Moral Anthropology, John Wiley & Sons, West Sussex, UK Vintage Books Edition, New York, Random House
- Fassin, Didier (2012) Humanitarian Reason. A Moral History of the Present. UoCalifornia P
- Foucault, Michel (1994/1973) The Birth of the Clinic. New York
- Greenhalgh, Susan (2008) Just One Child: Science and Policy in Deng’s China. University of California Press
- Greenhalgh, Susan (2012) Weighty subjects: The biopolitics of the U.S. war on fat. American Ethnologist, vol. 39/ August pp. 471–487
- Lemke, Thomas (2011) Biopolitics. An Advanced Introduction, NYU Press (10/2022)
- Ticktin, Miriam (2017) A world without innocence, American Ethnologist, vol 44/4 pp.576-590

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