



SO/CU 370 – URBAN IDENTITIES IN CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

IES Abroad Berlin

DESCRIPTION: This course aims at analyzing shifts in modern identity formations in Europe, with an emphasis on urban space through the lenses of memory representations and reconfigurations of social structures due to immigration, politics, and economic transformations. We will delineate national, sub and supra-national identities in their historical and current development, look in the re-structuring of national narratives after 11/9 1989 and 9/11 2001 and the populism in the aftermath of the refugee crisis. We will analyze the ongoing public discourses on European integration, the risks of disintegration and detect hybrid spaces related to identity formation between memory, place, ethnicity, race, religion, class, and gender. The focus of empirical reflection and research literature will be on the European city with special references to Berlin.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Sabine Berking

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English

ADDITIONAL COST: none

PREREQUISITES: none

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Lectures, class discussions, guided field excursions, student presentations, films and documentaries. 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 identity formation in contemporary Europe.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- participation (10%)
- case study (20 %)
- presentation (20%)
- midterm exam (25%)
- final exam or final paper (25%)

Course Participation: Students are expected come to class well-prepared (mandatory reading assignments) and participate in discussions, take active part in the field trips and complete potential written/oral homework. The grading rubric for participation is available in the IES Berlin Academics Manual on Moodle.

Case Study: A short reflection paper (appr. 1,500 words) on one of the academic field trips. Students pick a field trip for their reflection paper in their first week. The paper is due one week after the field trip.

Presentation: At least one class presentation on one of the suggested topics or readings; a list of topics will be distributed in the beginning of the course. Additional material/information for presentations will be provided in Moodle. **Presentation format:** 10-15 minutes maximum for each student, well- structured power point; speak up to class, organize material well; give sources; presentation should encourage class discussion; therefore, you are welcome to ask questions to teacher and class.

Midterm: Written exam – 90 minutes take home exam with essay questions on class discussions, field trips and readings.

Final: Written 90 minutes in class exam with essay questions on class discussions and readings or a short term paper (1,500 words) on a topic of your choice related to class topics. Due at the day of the final exam.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students should be able to analyze the interrelation of various identity formations in Europe and their historical backgrounds. They should understand how identity formation works in a historical and contemporary setting in Europe and compare this to the US. Students will be enabled to connect the discussion on European memory politics and multicultural societies to the discourses and realities in the US and to their own experiences during their study abroad term. They gain an overview of recent political and social changes in Europe and can interpret these developments. Germany, in particular Berlin, as the old and new borderline between East and West will serve as a social laboratory. In addition, developments in other cities such as Warsaw, St. Petersburg, Paris will be discussed.

ATTENDANCE AND DEADLINES.

Attendance and punctuality in all courses and field studies are mandatory. Absences can only be excused for valid reasons. Unexcused absences can affect students' grades. Students who miss 25% or more of all class sessions will fail the course. Missed exams cannot be taken at another time except in case of documented illness. Late submission of term papers and other work will result in grade reduction unless an extension due to illness or an emergency is approved. Please consult the IES Berlin Academics Manual on Moodle for additional details.

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Assignments/Readings
Session 1/2	<p>Introduction: Cities in Europe Identities and Memory Urban Cultural and Memoryscapes</p>	<p><u>No readings assigned.</u></p>
	<p>Memories in the City/Memories of the City – Field Trip – Walking Tour</p> <p>Remembering – Forgetting - Erasing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ekici, Didem (2007) <u>The Surfaces of Memory in Berlin</u>, Journal of Architectural Education October, pp. 25-34 • Assmann, Aleida (2016) <u>Forms of Forgetting</u>, Research of Art Dialogue, Amsterdam, pp.1-10 https://h401.org/2014/10/forms-of-forgetting/
Session 3/4	<p>How to deal with a difficult Past</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nora, Pierre (2002) <u>Reasons for the current upsurge in memory</u>. From: http://www.eurozine.com/pdf/2002-04-19-nora-en.pdf • Garton Ash, Timothy; <u>Trial, Purges and History Lessons</u>, pp.265-285 <p>Student Presentation: The GDR border guard trials</p>
	<p>Forgetting: Colonial Memories in the German Capital- Afro-German Identity in Europe today</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thiemeyer, Thomas (2019) <u>Cosmopolitanizing Colonial Memories in Germany</u>, Critical Inquiry No. 45, pp.967-990. • Hopkins, Leroy T. Jr. (1999) <u>Race, Nationality and Culture: The African Diaspora in Germany</u>, Who is German, pp. 1-33

		Student Presentation: Afro-German Identity and German Colonialism
Session 5/6	Externalizing Guilt: National Identities and Memories of the Communist Past in Eastern European Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zhurzhenko, Tatjana (2008) <i>Geopolitics of Memory</i>. www.eurozine.com pp 1-10 • Zombory, Maté (2017) <u>The birth of the memory of communism, pp 1-19</u>
	Heroism and National Identity: Russia's Return to the Soviet Narratives: The Siege of St. Petersburg/ WW II Memory in Poland: The Warsaw Uprising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reid, Anna (2011) <u>Leningrad. Tragedy of a City Under Siege</u>. pp. 3-13 and 406-416 • Krzysztof Ruchniewicz (2007) <u>The Memory of WW II in Poland</u>, Eurozine Sept 5, pp. 1-10 <p>Student Presentation: Leningrad Siege and Warsaw Uprising</p>
Session 7/8	Identity and War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaldor, Mary (2013) <u>Identity and War</u>. Global Policy Vol. 4, pp. 336 - 346
	Field Trip to the Soviet War Memorial Treptow	
Session 9/10	(N)Ostalgia: Communist Nostalgia and Post-Communist Identities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berdahl, Daphne (2010) <u>'(N)Ostalgie' for the present: Memory, longing, and East German things</u>, Ethnos, 64: 2, 192 — 211 <u>Recommended:</u> • Berdahl, Daphne (2010) <u>Good Bye, Lenin! Aufwiedersehen GDR</u>, pp. 177 – 190 <p><u>Recommended Film:</u> Good Bye, Lenin! (Germany 2003, Director: Wolfgang Becker)</p> <p>Student Presentation: GDR Memorials in the City: The Lenin Monument and the Marx-Engels Forum</p>
	Visit to the GDR Museum	
Session 11	Midterm	
Session 12/13	Identities in (Post)-Modernity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simmel, Georg (1950) <u>The Metropolis and Mental Life</u> • Reckwitz, Andreas (2020) <u>The Society of Singularities</u>, Open Access, De Gruyter, pp. 1-13 https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110669388-009,

	Religious Identities in European Cities and the Politics of Recognition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casanova, J. (2008) <u>The problem of religion and the anxieties of European secular democracy</u> pp. 63-74 <p><u>Recommended:</u> Taylor, Charles (1994) <u>The Politics of Recognition</u>, in: Multiculturalism, ed. Guttman, Amy, Princeton UP, pp.25-72</p>
Session 14/15	From Turkish Guest Workers to German Muslims – Young Muslims in the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bendixen, Synnove (2013) <u>Connecting the Local, National, and Transnational Powers of a Religious Youth Organization in Berlin</u>, pp. 99-112 <p><u>Recommended:</u> Bialasiewicz, L. (2017) <u>The political geographies of Muslim visibility Boundaries of tolerance in the European city</u>, Eurozine, https://www.eurozine.com/the-political-geographies-of-muslim-visibility/?pdf</p> <p>Student Presentation: Headscarf Debates in Germany and France</p>
	<u>Excursus:</u> The Banlieue in France – Spatial Boundaries and Social Marginalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beamann, Jean-Marie (2010) <u>Identity, Marginalization and Parisian Banlieue</u>, Research in Urban Sociology vol.10, 153-175 <p><u>Strongly Recommended Film:</u> Les Miserables (France 2019; Director: Ladj Ly)</p>
Session 16/17	Field Trip to Kreuzberg & Mosque	
Session 18/19	Jewish Spaces and Jewish Identity in the European City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ganter, E. & Oppenheim, J (Koby) (2014) <u>Jewish Space Reloaded</u>, in: Anthropological Journal of European Culture, vol. 23/2 pp. 1-10
	Field Trip: The Jewish Quarter Berlin	
Session 20/21	Food and Identity: The Making and Unmaking of National Cuisines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fox, Robin (n.d.) <u>Food and Eating: An Anthropological Perspective</u>. 1-12, online source w.d. Appadurai, Arjun, (1988) <u>How to Make a National Cuisine: Cookbooks in Contemporary India</u>, pp. 3-24 <p><u>Recommended:</u> Aktas, Semrat-Polat (2020) <u>A theoretical analysis of food meaning in anthropology and sociology</u>, Tourism, vol. 68,3, pp.278-293.</p> <p>Student Presentations: The French & the German National Cuisine</p>

	Identity and Food: The Döner and other Stories:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caglar, Ayse (1995) McDöner. <u>Döner Kebab and the social positioning struggle of German Turks</u>, pp. 209 – 230
Session 22/23	Wrap-up: Identity and Beyond	No Readings
	Final Exam	

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips in Berlin are augmenting the academic experience:

- Soviet War Memorial Treptow
- GDR Museum
- Kreuzberg district & Mosque
- The Jewish Quarter Berlin

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Appadurai, Arjun, (1988) How to Make a National Cuisine: Cookbooks in Contemporary India, *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 30 (1988): 3-24
- Assmann, Aleida (2016) *Forms of Forgetting*, *Research of Art Dialogue*, Amsterdam, pp.1-10 <https://h401.org/2014/10/forms-of-forgetting/>
- Beamann, Jean-Marie (2010) Identity, Marginalization and Parisian Banlieue, *Research in Urban Sociology* vol.10, 153-175
- Bendixen, Synnove (2013): Connecting the Local, National, and Transnational Powers of a Religious Youth Organization in Berlin, in: Becci, I., Buchardt, M., Casanova, J. (eds.) *Topographies of Faith. Religion in Urban Spaces*, Brill, Leiden - Boston.
- Berdahl, Daphne (2010) Good Bye Lenin! Aufwiedersehen GDR, in: Todorova, M. and Gille, Z. (eds) *Post-Communist Nostalgie*. Berhahn Books, New York – Oxford, pp. 177 – 190
- Caglar, Ayse (1995) McDöner. Döner Kebab and the social positioning struggle of German Turks, in: Costa, J.A. & Bamossy, G.A. , *Marketing in a Multicultural World: Ethnicity, Nationalism and Cultural Identity*, London, Sage, pp 209 – 230
- Casanova, Jose (2008) The Problem of Religion and the Anxieties of European Secular Democracy, in: Motzkin, G. and Fischer, Y. *Religion and Democracy in Contemporary Europe*, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.
- Ekici, Didem (2007) The Surfaces of Memory in Berlin, *Journal of Architectural Education*, October 2007, pp. 25-34
- Fox, Robin (n.d.) Food and Eating: An Anthropological Perspective. *Social Issues Research Centre*. Ed. SIRC., Web<<http://www.sirc.org/publik/foxfood.pdf>>.
- Ganter, E. and Oppenheim, J (Koby) (2014) Jewish Space Reloaded, in: *Anthropological Journal of European Culture*, vol. 23/2 pp. 1-10
- Garton Ash, Timothy (2002) *Trial, Purges and History Lessons. Treating a Difficult Past in post-communist Europe* In: Müller, Jan Werner (ed) *Memory and Power in post-war Europe*. Cambridge UP, pp. 265-282
- Hopkins, Leroy T. Jr. (1999) Race, Nationality and Culture: The African Diaspora in Germany, Who is German? American Institute for Contemporary German Studies, J. Hopkins University, 1999, pp. 1-30
- Kaldor, Mary (2013) Identity and War. *Global Policy* Vol. 4, pp. 336 - 346
- Krzysztof Ruchniewicz (2007) The Memory of WW II in Poland, *Eurozine* Sept 5, pp. 1-10
- Müller, Jan Werner (2016) What is populism? University of Pennsylvania Press, pp. 19 – 40 and 101 - 103
- Nora, Pierre (2002) *Reasons for the current upsurge in memory*. From: <http://www.eurozine.com/pdf/2002-04-19-nora-en.pdf> (retrieved: Aug 20, 2016)
- Reckwitz, Andreas (2020) The Society of Singularities, Open Access, De Gruyter, pp. 1-13
- Reid, Anna (2011) Leningrad. Tragedy of a City Under Siege. pp. 3-13 and 406-416, Bloomsbury London
- Simmel, Georg (1950) The Metropolis and Mental Life, adapted by D. Weinstein from Kurt Wolff (Trans.) *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*. New York: Free Press, 1950, pp.409-424
- Zhurzhenko, Tatjana (2008) *Geopolitics of Memory*. <http://www.eurozine.com/articles/2007-05-10-zhurzhenko-en.html>



- Zombory, Maté (2017) The birth of the memory of communism, Nationalities Papers, 2017 Vol. 45, No.6, pp. 1028 – 104, Routledge London

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Articles on current European politics and culture, and identity can be found under: www.eurozine.org
- Aktas, Semrat-Polat (2020) A theoretical analysis of food meaning in anthropology and sociology, Tourism, vol. 68,3, pp.278-293.
- Taylor, Charles (1994) The Politics of Recognition, in: Multiculturalism, ed. Guttman, Amy, Princeton UP, pp.25-72

RECOMMENDED FILMS

- Good Bye, Lenin! (Germany 2003, Director: Wolfgang Becker)
- Les Misérables (France 2019; Director: Ladj Ly)