



GE/AN 313 – BIO-POLITICS AND MIGRATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY
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. We want to discuss the notion of population, its governmentality and the politics of “life” – regulation and distribution of forms of life - in contexts of peace, war, violence and economic crisis drawing on examples from national family and health policies to international regimes of 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 humanitarian aid. Using some of the theoretical groundwork from social theorists as Michael Foucault and Giorgio Agamben we will delineate the interrelation between power techniques and new forms of knowledge to uncover the hidden matrix of political space. By doing so, throughout the course tensions and conflicts between the governance of population and modern human rights regimes will be in our focus. The course offers an interdisciplinary approach to old and new forms of governmentality. The course 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 up 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 -30%

Course Participation:

Students have to 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:

Written 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 related to one of the topics discussed in class by applying your knowledge to a specific self-chosen subject related to Berlin or another city. If your paper is being focused on the program related field trip (preliminary research), it fulfills the requirement for a travel assignment (one travel assignment is requested for each student in the semester). 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; the massacre of Jedwabne as a case of ethnic cleansing; politics of expulsion – the case of the German population in Poland and Polish citizens in Eastern Poland/today Ukraine; current Polish bio-political discourses on immigration and/or reproductive rights: 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 and put as choice in moodle. *Presentation format:* Power point; speak up to class, organize material well; give sources; presentation should encourage class discussion, therefore ask questions to teacher and class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students are expected to abide by the IES Abroad Academic Integrity Code. Assigned papers need to be properly and amply footnoted where appropriate, with all sources attributed, including images. Suspicious papers may be checked with plagiarism-detecting software.

CONTENT:

| Session | Content | Readings |
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| Week 1 | Session 1: What is Bio-Politics? Introduction to course, literature, requirements. | No Reading for first session. |

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| | <p>Session 2: The Birth of modern Bio-Politics: Thomas Malthus and Neo-Malthusian concepts</p> | <p><u>Reading:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Randeria, Shalini (2009) Malthus vs. Condorcet. Population Policy, Gender and Culture from an Ethnological Perspective, in: Berking/Zolkos (eds), <i>Between Life and Death</i>, pp. 25 – 41. Urdal, H. A Clash of Generations? Youth Bulges and Political Violence UN Expert Group 21/22 July 2011, pp. 1-14 <p>Student Presentation: Thomas Malthus</p> |
| Week 2: | <p>Session 3: Michel Foucault and his Concept of Bio-Power</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lemke, Thomas (2011) <i>Bio-politics. An Advanced Introduction</i>. New York. NYU Press, pp. 33 – 52. Foucault, Michael ([1976]2003) <i>Society Must be Defended</i>. Lecture 11 from 17 March 1976, Picador/Pan Books Limited, New York, pp. 239 – 264 |
| | <p>Session 4: The Medical Gaze/Birth of the Hospital</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foucault, Michel <i>The Birth of Social Medicine</i>, in: <i>The Essential Works of Michel Foucault</i>, vol. 3, <i>Power</i>, pp. 134 - 155 |
| Week 3 | <p>Session 5: Field Trip Charité Museum</p> | |
| | <p>Session 6: Bare Life – Giorgio Agamben and Homo Sacer</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lemke, Thomas (2011) <i>Sovereign Power and Bare Life</i>. Giorgio Agamben, In: Lemke, Thomas <i>Biopolitics. An Advanced Introduction</i>. New York. NYU Press, pp. 53 – 64 <p>Recommended Film: <i>Life is Beautiful</i></p> |
| Week 4 | <p>Session 7: Body Politics - Rape and War</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diken, Bülent and Lausten-Bagge, Carsten (2005) <i>Becoming Abject: Rape as Weapen of War</i>, <i>Body & Society</i> Vol. 11(1): 111–128 Mookherjee, Nayanika (2009). Available motherhood: Legal technologies, 'state of exception' and the dekinning of 'war babies' in Bangladesh. In <i>Between Life and Death</i>, pp. 267-283. <p>Student presentation on readings and rape and war Recommended Film: <i>Anonymous – A Women in Berlin</i></p> |

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| | Session 8: Reproductive Medicine and its Consequences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walby, Catherine & Cooper, Melinda (2006) The Biopolitics of Reproduction, Global Biopolitics Research Papers No 15, October, pp. 1-34 <p>Student presentation on surrogate motherhood and global reproductive markets</p> |
| Week 5 | Session 9: When Organs Travel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) <p>Student Presentation on Organ Trade, pp. 61 - 80</p> |
| Week 6: | Midterm Exam | |
| Week 7 | Session 10: Genocide | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jones, Adam (2011) Genocide. A Comprehensive Introduction. pp. 8 - 12 <p>Student presentations on the origins of the term genocide (Lemkin), the Herero Genocide (and its traces in Berlin) and the current genocide to the Rohingyas (or other historical examples)</p> |
| | Session 11-13: Field Trip to Sachsenhausen concentration camp | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See homework on field trip in moodle. |
| Week 8 | Session 14: After-Life: Governmentality of Corpses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chu, Julie Y. (2009) <u>D</u>eparting 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 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. <p>Student Presentation on Burial Rights in Germany and Muslim burials</p> |
| | Session 15: Bio-Politics and the Pandemic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lorenzini, Daniele. "Biopolitics in the Time of Coronavirus." Critical Inquiry 47.S2 (2021): pp. 40-45 van den Berge, Lukas. "Biopolitics and the Coronavirus: Foucault, Agamben, Žižek." Netherlands Journal of Legal Philosophy 1 (2020), pp. 3-6 <p>Student Presentation</p> |

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| Week 9 | Session 16: Migration and Bio-Politics | <p>Migration to Europe /Germany Governmentality and the Working Body Labor</p> <p>Student Presentation on Turkish Labor Migration to Germany</p> |
| | Session 17: Citizenship Law as Bio-Politics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joppke, Christian (2008) Comparative Citizenship: A Restrictive Turn in Europe? <i>Law and Ethics of Human Rights</i> 2 (1):1-41 • Schinkel, Willem (2010) From Zoepolitics to Biopolitics: Citizenship and the Construction of ‘Society’, <i>European Journal of Social Theory</i>, vol. 13, 155-171 <p>Student presentation on German citizenship law and on Schinkel text</p> |
| Week 10 | Session 18: Consultations for case study paper | |
| | Session 19: Asylum Law and its Changes after 1989 | <p>The contested European Asylum Law and its changes</p> <p>Student Presentation on Schengen, the Dublin Convention and the current asylum debate</p> <p>Group work on the different statuses of asylum – full/political asylum/protection under Geneva 1951 refugee convention, subsidiary protection; protection from deportation</p> |
| Week 11 | Session 20: Humanitarianism and Bio-Politics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fassin, Didier (2013) The Precarious Truth of Asylum, in: <i>Public Culture</i> vol 25.1 pp. 39 – 63 |
| | Session 21: Preparation for Student Conference | <p>Potential Topics: Sinti and Roma in Europe; The German Circumcision Debate; Health and Bio-Politics; Obesity and Bulimia-The Construction of Body-Norms; The War on Drugs and the Power of Pharmaceutical Companies; The War on Obesity, Environmental Racism; Food Desserts and Bio-Power; Housing and Bio-Power</p> <p>Literature in moodle</p> |
| Week 12 | Session 22: Student Conference – Final Presentations | Student conference : Apply Bio-politics |
| Week 13 | Final Exam | |

FIELD TRIPS:

- Concentration Camp Memorial Sachsenhausen
- Charité Berlin Museum for Medical History;

REQUIRED READINGS:

- 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
- Diken, Bülent and Lausten-Bagge, Carsten (2005) Becoming Object: Rape as Weapon of War, *Body & Society* Vol. 11(1): 111–128
- Diken, Bülent (2004) From refugee camps to gated communities: biopolitics and the end of the city, *Citizenship Studies*, 8:1, 83-106, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1362102042000178373>
- 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
- 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
- Lorenzini, Daniele. "Biopolitics in the Time of Coronavirus." *Critical Inquiry* 47.S2 (2021): pp. 40-45
- 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.
- 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
- Urdal, H. A Clash of Generations? Youth Bulges and Political Violence UN Expert Group 21/22 July 2011
- van den Berge, Lukas. "Biopolitics and the Coronavirus: Foucault, Agamben, Žižek." *Netherlands Journal of Legal Philosophy* 1 (2020), pp. 3-6
- 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

Films are expected to be watched in preparation for class. 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.

- Fassin, Didier (ed) (2012) A Companion to Moral Anthropology, John Wiley & Sons, West Sussex, UKVintage Books Edition, New York, Random House
- 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
- Waldby, Catherine (2007) Stem Cell Research, Biopolitics and Globalization, in: Gottweis, H. and Braun, K. (eds.) *Mapping Biopolitics: Medical-Scientific Transformations and the Rise of New Forms of Governance*, London, Routledge; also as: GBRG Working papers pp 1-17