



Online Course Title	Interreligious and Intercultural Tensions in Germany
Category	Cultural Studies & Religion
Online Course Period	January 6th – January 26th 2021
Course Structure	<p>The course content is equivalent to an on-site course offering 45 contact hours.</p> <p>The study time includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • virtual class room lessons with the lecturer and the fellow students (30%) • group exercises (30%) • assignments and self-study (40%) <p>Weekly schedule of virtual class room lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course days: Monday and Wednesday • 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm (Berlin time, UTC+1) • 9.30 pm – 11.30 pm (Beijing time, UTC+8) • 0.30 am – 2.30 am (Sydney time, UTC+11) • 7.30 am – 9.30 am (Chicago time, UTC-6)
Technical Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully functional device (laptop, tablet, PC or smart phone) • Stable internet connection • Software: Zoom (video/audio), Moodle (e-learning platform) <p>Recommended hardware: external headset for better sound quality</p>
Course Level & Target Group	International undergraduate students of all subjects with an academic background and a strong interest in such as: social anthropology, history, theology, ethics, journalism.
Course Language	This course is taught in English, including readings in English. For the understanding of the texts and the discussions in class a language level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.
ECTS	5 ECTS
Instructor	Dr. Victoria Bishop Kendzia

Course Description

This course follows the complex trajectories linking interreligious and intercultural narratives in Germany today. How does the culture of memory in Germany, with its Christian frame and Jewish focus converge and diverge with more recent narratives of migration that have made Islam a visible presence in Germany? How is Holocaust memory and memory of the Nazi past, more generally, linked to present-day racisms? These are the main question this course seeks to address. Students will interrogate this topic through online lectures, video material and related media, key scholarly readings, and workshops. The focus is on quality rather than quantity. The readings are to be read carefully and discussion questions are to be prepared, as assigned, in advance of the respective Zoom meetings.

Course Schedule

The assignments will be explained in more detail on the Moodle course page. All reading and viewing material will be made available via Moodle.

Topic 1: Interreligious and intercultural dialogue as made visible in large national institutions.

Zoom Meeting 1 – Wednesday 06 January: Introduction to the Course

- **Assignment 1 due Friday 08 January** i. A short written assignment (200 words) based on the Jewish Museum Berlin website, and ii: Discussion questions on the required reading: Feldman/Peleikis 2014

Zoom Meeting 2 – Monday 11 January: The Jewish Museum Berlin

This meeting will include discussion of your assignments from 08 January, your ideas, impressions, and questions.

Topic 2: Migration to Germany and the Culture of Memory

General discussion of migration after WWII, (short news program online, lecture by the instructor) and attempts from migrant groups to be included in the culture of memory. Required reading Costoiu 2008, Rothberg/Yildiz 2011.

Zoom Meeting 3 – Wednesday 13 January: Intersection Memory and Migration

General discussion of migration after WWII (lecture by the instructor). There will also be time set aside to discuss my expectations for the final paper on a topic of your choice, relevant to the course material.

- **Assignment 2 due Friday 15 January – i. A short written assignment based on the video material and ii. Discussion questions submitted by the students on the two required readings: Costoiu 2008; and Rothberg/Yildiz 2011**

Zoom Meeting 4 – Monday, 18 January

This will be a discussion based on your assignments submitted on 15 January and any open questions.

Topic 3: Critical Issues. Barriers to Belonging

News program on Islam in Germany; Readings: Partridge 2010; Shooman 2016; (optional Bunzl 2005). A short written assignment based on the above news media and required scholarly readings (Partridge 2010; Shooman 2016).

Zoom Meeting 5 – Wednesday 20 January

This meeting is follow-up to address any open issues to date.

- **Assignment 3 due Friday 21 January i. Short notes on news media and ii. Discussion questions on Partridge 2010 Shooman 2016**

Zoom Meeting 6 – Monday 25 January

This final Zoom meeting will be to discuss your assignments of 21 January and also have summary discussion of the course in general.

- **Final Paper due 29 January – A short (5 pages) paper in which you explore a topic of your choice relevant to the course.**

Course Objective & Learning Outcomes

The aim of this course is to explore the tensions between Germany's culture of memory and present-day issues surrounding belonging and exclusion. In order to facilitate this, students will explore key sites of memory, post WWII migration to Germany, and the ongoing challenges of racism today.

A key learning outcome is to build critical thinking skills in order to read the sites and materials in a way that is conscious of power asymmetries. This involves interrogating how memory is represented: by whom, with whom, and for whom? This careful and conscious interpretation also serves to develop an awareness of the students' own positionalities: Where do they fit in these discussions? What knowledge and experience do they bring to the topic? This self-reflexive approach is particularly fruitful in international contexts where students come from a variety of national and academic backgrounds. The aim is to create a learning environment where students can gain knowledge and insight not only from the instructor and the material, but also via comparisons with and from each other.

Readings

Reading materials will be available via Moodle during the course.

Required:

Feldman, Jackie and Anja Peleikis. (2014) "Performing the Hyphen: Engaging German-Jewishness at the Jewish Museum Berlin." In *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures*. 23. (2). 43-59. (Those who have taken the Jewish Narratives in Germany class would have already read this.)

Costoiu, Andrada. (2008). "Thematic Articles – Migrants' Integration in Host Societies. Modes of Minorities' Integration: Explaining Historical, Economic and Political Factors." *Journal of Identity and Migration Studies* 2(2): 2-17

Michael Rothberg and Yasemin Yildiz. (2011). "Memory Citizenship: Migrant Archives of Holocaust Remembrance in Contemporary Germany." *Parallax (Special Issue on Transcultural Memory)* 17.4, 32-48.

Partridge, Damani J. (2010). "Holocaust Mahnmal (Memorial): Monumental Memory amidst Contemporary Race." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 52(4):820–850.

Shooman, Yasemin. (2016). "Between Everyday Racism and Conspiracy Theories. Islamophobia on the German-Language Internet." *Media and Minorities*:136-155.

Suggested:

Bunzl, Matti. (2005). "Between Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia: Some Thoughts on the New Europe." *American Ethnologist* 32.4: 499-508.

Supplemental:

Additional material (videos and other media) will be posted on Moodle.

Assignments

In order to be granted 5 ECTS, participants will be asked to actively attend all sessions (you may not miss more than one synchronous session), and to hand in weekly assignments as well as an academic paper (5 pages) on the topic.

Submission deadline: see above.

Assessment Components

The final grade will be composed of weekly assignments and active participation in class (50%) and the final academic paper (50%).

Expectations & Policies

Preparation for lively discussions in the virtual classroom: be on time, have at least the required readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification.

Group exercises, assignments, and self-study: complete all tasks according to the specified requirements on schedule including handing over to the lecturer.

Commitment in online-class: pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers).

Academic guidelines: Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical) especially the academic honour code and the student code of conduct (see *FAQs* on www.huwisu.de).

Attendance policy: No unexcused absences are permitted. Students must contact their class lecturer to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the HUWISU office.

Your Instructor

Dr. Victoria Bishop Kendzia's teaching method, although anthropologically inflected, is interdisciplinary in nature and is, therefore, not limited to the social sciences.

It appeals to students from a wide variety of academic backgrounds from history to art, through to geography, theology, and politics. The focus of her work is on the urban landscape, especially, but not only, museums and memorials in and around Berlin.

In this context, locations are approached as field sites that can be read, explored, and critically analyzed as dynamic sites that project and reframe key aspects of history and culture. The urban laboratory that is Berlin is particularly well-suited to this endeavor, given the historical and cultural upheavals it has witnessed during the 20th century.

She defended her dissertation entitled: *The Jewish Museum Berlin: Visitor Experience in the Context of Political Education* in 2013 at the Institute for European Ethnology, Humboldt University Berlin under the supervision of Prof. Wolfgang Kaschuba and Prof. Sharon Macdonald. Her doctoral work was based on ethnography of young Berlin-based high school students in and around the Jewish Museum Berlin.

She has a background in Museum Studies, having completed her master's degree in this field from the University of Toronto, Canada in 2001 and her Bachelor of Arts Honours at the same university in 1999. She has been publishing scholarly articles in her field since 2009 and teaching at the university level since 2008. Her most recent publication is the monograph, (December) 2017 *Visitors to the House of Memory. Political Education and Identity at the Jewish Museum Berlin*. London and New York: Berghahn Books.

Please note that the course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: September 2020