

Course Title	<i>Interreligious and Intercultural Tensions in Germany</i>
Category	Cultural Studies & Religion
Class Time	<p>Winter Session: January 6th – 24th 2020</p> <p>Track B</p> <p>Weekly schedule Monday: 1.30 pm – 3 pm & 3.20 pm – 4.50 pm Tuesday & Wednesday: 9.00 am – 10.30 am & 11.00 am – 12.30 pm Friday: 1.30 pm – 3 pm & 3.20 pm – 4.05 pm</p>
Course Level & Target Group	Undergraduate students with a strong interest in religious studies, cultural studies, social sciences, European studies and students with a strong interest in the topic.
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 or higher (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.
ECTS	5 ECTS (45 contact hours)
Instructor	Dr. Victoria Bishop Kendzia

Course Description

This course aims to examine convergences, divergences, and parallel tracks, interrogating tensions evident between the Jewish narrative within the culture of memory in Germany (Erinnerungskultur) and the endeavors to represent migration today. It specifically interrogates how the Germany's difficult heritage is remembered and, in turn, relates to issues of exclusion and belonging today.

The focus will be on museum and exhibition-oriented institutions with three to four field trips to relevant sites in Berlin. The trips will be preceded in class by an overview of a theoretical framework on the issues of the construction of "Self" and "Other" and followed by discussions of the field sites in a workshop atmosphere.

In addition to tracing the historical narratives, class time is set aside to explore ongoing current events, relevant to the course.

Course Objective & Learning Outcomes

In this course, students will explore the topic of "Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Germany" using ethnographic field methods and critical analysis.

Suggested Readings

Fabian, Johannes (2006). The other revisited: Critical afterthoughts. In: *Anthropological Theory*. Vol. 6 (2): 139-152.

Feldman, Jackie & Anja Peleikis (2014). Performing the Hyphen: Engaging German-Jewishness at the Jewish Museum Berlin. *Anthropological Journal of European Cultures*. 23 (2): 43-59.

Michael Rothberg & 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.

All these and supplementary reading materials will be in the reader, that will be distributed beginning of the class.

Course Schedule

Week 1 – The "Jewish" Narrative

Introduction to the course and to the "Jewish" narrative.

Discussion of the concept of self and other and introduction to the ethnographic methods.

Excursion to the Jewish Museum Berlin using ethnographic field methods.

Discussion of field trip and the three readings assigned for the week (Feldman/Peleikis 2014; Rothberg/Yildiz 2011)

Workshop on the method: Conversation Walk

Week 2 – Intersections with Issues of Exclusion and Racism

Excursion (venue tba) focus on the topic of intercultural dialogue

Seminar comparing the two field trips.

Seminar on the Migration Narrative

Excursion to a specific site: Villa Global at the Schöneberg Jugendmuseum

Discussion on the reading assigned for the week (Partridge 2010).

Workshop on the method: Interview

Week 3 – Continuation of Jewish Narrative meets Migration Issues

Student Presentations and Summary Discussions

Two Student Group Presentations and Discussions (day 1)

Discussion of topics in current events and the final two readings (Shooman 2016)

Workshop on the method: Field Diary

Two Student Group Presentations and Discussions (day 3)

Seminar: Summary Discussion, Certificates, feedback etc.

Assignments

In order to be granted 5 ECTS, students are required to

- participate actively in all classes,
 - do the readings in time and preparing discussion questions on them in advance,
 - take part in a group presentation during class time.
 - hand in a written research report (5-7 pages, double-spaced, 12 font, Times New Roman), which can be based on the presentation. Details re: due date and content can be negotiated with the instructor. The content should reflect the interests of the students as well as what will be explored together throughout the course.
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Assessment Components

A minimum of 80% class attendance is required. The final grade will be composed of active participation during class discussions as well as the other tasks mentioned above.

Failure to fulfil one of the mentioned components results in failure of the class.

Expectations & Policies

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

Assignments: complete all assignments according to the specified requirements on schedule including handing over to the lecturer.

Commitment in class: pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits).

Academic guidelines: Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical), especially the academic honor 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 teachers to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the HUWISU office (80% class attendance are required).

Field trips: if classes involve a field trip or other external visits, these require attendance as well as appearance in time – transportation difficulties are never valid reasons for an excused absence.

Cultural Extra-curricular Activities

HUWISU offers a fine selection of interesting extra-curricular activities and aims to give all participants an unforgettable stay in Berlin.

Your program includes excursions, sport activities and social gatherings providing you the opportunity to get to know the city, the university and your classmates better and to meet students from all parts of the world. The costs for these offers are included in the course fees.

Below you will find examples of previously offered cultural activities. You will be informed about the respective cultural program after your enrolment via email as well as during the course period.

Political and historical guided tours:

- **Federal Chancellery (Bundeskanzleramt):** It's the central coordination point for the entire government policy. The office is in constant contact to departments and other authorities.
- **German Parliament (Bundestag):** As the highest organ of the legislative in Germany it's elected by the German people. In practice Germany is governed by a bicameral legislature, of which the Bundestag serves as the lower house and the Bundesrat equals the upper house.
- **House of Representatives (Abgeordnetenhaus):** It's the state parliament (Landtag) of Berlin and located in the center of the reunified city. Together with the Martin Gropius Bau, the Topography of Terror and the Bundesrat, it presents an arresting contrast to the flair of the new Potsdamer Platz.
- **Topography of Terror:** A permanent exhibition with focus on the central institutions of the SS and police during the "Third Reich" and the crimes they committed throughout Europe. With the help of mostly photographic material, visitors are led through the major themes of the exhibition's five main segments.
- **Political Archive:** As the "memory" of the Federal Foreign Office it preserves the files on German diplomacy since 1867, as well as the international treaties signed by the Federal Republic of Germany and its predecessors in title. The records are preserved, processed and made available for academic research.

Cultural guided tours:

- **Kreuzberg Tour:** Kreuzberg has emerged from its history as one of the poorest quarters in Berlin in the late 1970s to a cultural center of today's Berlin. A unique area and one of the hippest neighborhoods in Berlin with many bars, pubs and clubs.
 - **Museum Island (Museumsinsel):** was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Status in 1999 and is an ensemble of five museums: Old Museum, New Museum, Old National Gallery, Pergamon Museum and Bode Museum.
 - **Berlin Cathedral (Berliner Dom):** Berlin's largest and most important Protestant church is located on the Museum Island.
 - **Daytrip to Potsdam:** Be inspired by the illustrious attractions of the UNESCO's World Heritage while underway through the city of Potsdam. Immerse yourself in the history and present of Potsdam and
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discover many palaces, gardens, and historic quarters such as the “Holländisches Viertel” or the “Nikolaikirche”.

- **Exhibitions:** Berlin is known for its unique galleries and exhibitions, that is why we will visit at least one during the Winter University.

Social gatherings

- **Welcome Get-Together:** We invite you to meet all participants as well as the HUWISU staff in a relaxed atmosphere.
 - **Ice Skating:** A fun outdoor sport activity for everyone; even for those who have never been on ice-skates before. Afterwards you may head out for hot beverage to warm up from the inside.
 - **Farewell Party:** At the end of the Winter University we will come together to celebrate the exciting time with HUWISU.
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Your Instructor

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, focusing on issues of interreligious significance. 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 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.

Please note that the course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: September 2019