

HI282 Research-Creation: New Approaches to Contemporary Migration History in Germany

Course Times:

Weekend 1): Friday, March 3, 19:00, to Sunday, March 5, 17:45

Weekend 2): Friday, March 31, 19:00, to Sunday, April 2, 17:45

Weekend 3): Friday, May 5, 19:00, to Sunday, May 7, 17:45

(Friday, 19:00-21:00; Saturday, 10:00-13:15, 14:30-17:45; Sunday, 10:00-13:13, 14:30-17:45, including 15 minutes breaks in each session)

Off-Campus Location:

BOX Freiraum, Boxhagener Str. 96, 10245 Berlin

Instructor: Marion Detjen

Email: m.detjen@berlin.bard.edu

Office Hours: Monday, 11:00 - 12:00, Friday 11:00 - 12:00

This class is a continuation of the Fall seminar In Search of a History: Migration in Germany from World War II to the Present, focussing on individual projects by students that turn into words, images, melodies, space, and taste the migration history knowledge and experience that we have already collected and will continue to collect. The projects don't necessarily have the ambition of entering the context of art; we consider them "notations," putting down our perceptions and thoughts in the modes of expression that suit us best. Firstly, we will go again through the historical data, tools and concepts of migration history that will help us to take an analytical distance, to contextualize and historicize our material. Then we will work on one collective visualization project. But the major part of the course is dedicated to developing and finishing the individual projects and to finding solutions for exhibiting them.

While the leading question of the Fall seminar was directed towards Germany's historical difficulties in defining itself as an immigration country, we will now broaden our approach, following the concept of "migration regimes" that is becoming prevalent in migration research, and examine transnational and migratory experience and agency, in a time that seems to be regressing evermore to strict border control and nationalist migration policies.

For the realization of the projects we will cooperate with artists and curators who will give the creative, formal and practical input and advice that I as an historian limited to the plain word cannot give. The course will be taught as a block seminar on three weekends in March, April and May, in an arts space at „BOX Freiraum“ in Boxhagener Straße, Neukölln. The last workshop, beginning of May, is dedicated to the exhibition's architecture: here we will be joined by the architectural class of Prof. Michelle Howard, of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, to develop and build a system that shall be flexible enough to allow the exhibition to be shown in different locations.

In the subsequent week, from Thursday, May 11, to Saturday, May 13, the exhibition will be presented to the international audience of a conference on European migration history at the Berlin Wall Memorial at Bernauer Straße. One panel has been reserved for us to put forward our work for discussion and to reflect on the relations between migration experience, research and education that we will have discovered by then. Bard College Berlin is one of the organizers of the conference, together with the Center for Contemporary History, the American Academy and others. All students are expected to take part in the conference and to help with issues concerning the exhibition.

Due to its special character the course will be restricted to 15 students maximum. Those interested are asked to apply with a project that should have a clear topic and already show some progress in research and in formulation. It should have a transnational dimension, i.e. crossing at least one national border, and take into account migrant and/or post-migrant experiences. Also, the medium of the “notation” (film, photography, music, drawing or painting etc.) has to be fixed in the application, for us to be able to address artists who are competent in this medium.

Requirements

Participation

Due to the experimental character of the course and the involvement of other people in it, your consistent and committed participation is vitally important. The workshops will include brainstorming, discussions, presentations, writing and reading periods, but also the practical and hands-on work of building an exhibition: setup, transport and removal. You will be asked to work alone, with a partner, or in a group.

Attendance

Attendance at ALL workshops and its parts is expected. You are allowed no more than two absences (that is from two sessions of 90 minutes). Absences should be limited to health problems or emergencies. Any additional absence will not only significantly affect the participation grade for the course, but also jeopardize your participation in the exhibition.

Assignments, assessment and evaluation criteria

Every week, before and in between the workshops, you will be given assignments and tasks that you have to carry out on your own or in collaboration with others. Some of them will be tailored to your projects individually, some of them will be general readings for discussion in the workshops, and some of them will be collecting material to be incorporated in the exhibition - please see the schedule below.

The assignments will be uploaded in a course on google classroom that will serve for communication, in addition to the Facebook group of last term.

- Active participation in the workshops and in commenting each other's projects: 20% of your grade
- Presentation of your individual project during the first workshop March 4th/5th: 20% of your grade
- Three short papers of each 300 words that can serve as exhibition texts: 30% of your grade. The first one is due Feb. 10th (10%), the second one March 10th (10%), the third one April 28th (10%).
- First draft of the Final Project, to be sent to Vienna on April 21th: 20% of your grade.
- Final Project, as it appears in the exhibition May 9th: 10% of your grade

Schedule

(The Schedule may be subject to change any time.)

Saturday, Feb. 4, 11:00-12:30: Introductory Session at the Lecture Hall, BCB

Feb. 5: Application to participate in the course (send me your revised essay/visualization)

Feb. 10: First Paper: Re-work on your Caesura (10% of your grade)

Feb. 17: Comment critically on three projects of your fellow students that will be allocated to you

Feb. 24: Individual assignments

Weekend 1): Friday, March 3, 19:00, to Sunday, March 5, 17:45

(Readings:

- Dirk Hoerder et.al: Terminologies and Concepts of Migration Research, in: The Encyclopedia of Migration and Minorities in Europe. From the 17th Century to the Present, ed. by Klaus J. Bade et.al., Cambridge 2011, pp. XXV-XXXIX.
- Andreas Wimmer and Nina Glick Schiller: Methodological nationalism and beyond: nation-state building, migration and the social sciences, *Global Networks* 2, 4 (2002), pp. 301-334.)

Friday,

**19:00-21:00: Discussion: Transnational experience and migration research
 Logistic preparation of the workshop**

Saturday,

**10:00-13:15 Presentations and discussions of the individual projects
14:30-17.45 Presentations and discussions of the individual projects**

Sunday,

**10:00-13:13 Presentations and discussions of the individual projects
14:30-17:45 Mapping the Caesuras**

March 10: Second Paper: Chronicle and History (10% of your grade)

March 17: Comment on three more projects of fellow students

March 24: Individual Assignments

Weekend 2): Friday, March 31, 19:00, to Sunday, April 2, 17:45

(Reading:

- Owen Chapman & Kim Sawchuk: Research-Creation: Intervention, Analysis and 'Family Resemblances', in: Canadian Journal of Communication Vol 37 (2012), pp. 5-28.)

Friday,

19:00-21:00 Research-Creation in an Era of Multilingualism and Unequal Education
 Logistic Preparation of the Workshop

Saturday,

10:00-13:15 - Workshops Films - Collages - Projections - Paintings
14:30-17.45 - Workshops Films - Collages - Projections - Paintings

Sunday,

10:00-13:13 - Workshops Films - Collages - Projections - Paintings
14:30-17:45 - Workshops Films - Collages - Projections - Paintings

April 7: Individual Assignments/ MIDTERM GRADE

10.-17. April: Spring Break

April 21: Finish a first draft of your project to be sent to the architectural class to Vienna (20% of your grade)

April 28: Third Paper: Re-work on the politics of belonging (10%)

Weekend 3): Friday, May 5, 19:00, to Sunday, May 7, 17:45

together with the architecture class of Prof. Michelle Howard, Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna

(Readings:

- Peggy Levitt: Transnational Migrants: When "Home" Means More Than One Country, October 2004, <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/transnational-migrants-when-home-means-more-one-country>.)
- Isabelle Stengers: The Cosmopolitical Proposal, in: Making Things Public. Atmospheres of Democracy, ed. by Bruno Latour and Peter Weibel, Karlsruhe/Cambridge 2005, pp. 994-1003.)

Friday, Discussion: Cosmopolitical Research and Architecture?
19:00-21:00 Logistic Preparation of the Workshop

Saturday,
10:00-13:15
14:30-17:45

Sunday,
10:00-13:13
14:30-17:45

May 9th-11th: Conference “The Impossible Order” at the Wall Memorial