Integration of refugees and social stratification
Instructor: Prof. Dr. Yuliya Kosyakova, Professorship for Migration Research
Email: Yuliya.Kosyakova@uni-bamberg.de

Information on the class

Format: Block Seminar, 4 SWS, twice per month

Recommended for: Students of M.A. Soziologie/European Economic Studies (EES)

Schedule: Twice per month on Fridays, Room F21/XXX

Office Hours: By appointment via email

Max Participants: 20

Course description:
Refugee migration has surged in the 21st century, driven by conflicts, persecution, and instability in regions like the Middle East, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, and parts of South-Eastern Asia and Latin America and, recently, the Russian invasion into Ukraine. By 2022, the number of forcibly displaced individuals globally reached 108 million, with 40 million crossing international borders, indicating an unparalleled scale of displacement. Germany has become a primary destination, hosting a refugee population that grew from 0.5 to 3.1 million between 2010 and 2022 (DESTATIS, 2023). This significant influx, which increased the refugee share of the population from 0.6% to 3.7% (DESTATIS, 2023), has profound implications for the country's social and economic fabric. The issue of refugees’ successful integration is often framed as a cause of anxiety; culturally, politically, and economically in Germany and else in Europe and there is no consensus about the best way to promote their integration. This course will explore these debates through literature on several aspects of refugees’ integration in Western Europe.

In particular, this course will first describe the recent refugee flows with a particular focus on Germany. Next, it will outline the factors shaping decisions to migrate and outline the differences between migration process of refugees and other migrants. Finally, we will engage in debates around models of immigrant incorporation and consider whether and how they are applicable to refugees. Here, we will focus on issues related to asylum procedure, labor market access, family reunification, access to education and language acquisition, access to healthcare, family roles, and networks; and address complex issues of integration of vulnerable groups such as women, children, and low-educated.

Course Workflow, Assignment & Grading:
Meetings. The course will run as a series of meetings, in which we will discuss readings covering relevant thematic areas (see Syllabus below) and related questions. Before each session (except Meeting 1), students are required to read ALL readings assigned (except for the ones explicitly marked as optional).

By default, all meetings are presence meetings. However, depending on the circumstances, some of these meetings might be organized in an online format (Zoom-sessions). You will be notified in advance in case a meeting is to be held online.

Presence (either physical or online) itself will not be graded but it may be helpful to obtain a better final grade (see below). In any case, if you do not plan / cannot attend please give me advance notice (it is just polite as well as helpful to plan sessions).

Discussion questions. These includes your discussion questions based on the Meeting’s reading. The discussion questions may include own critique, comprehension questions, discussion topics, further research and society questions.

All Meeting’s reading will be uploaded to VC at least one week in advance (I might revise the syllabus and readings slightly as the course goes). The discussion questions will be due by 16 p.m. Wednesday preceding the session. Each will count towards individual portfolios (see Grading below). I will not accept discussion questions past the deadline!

Own research: Presentation. A presentation relates to your own research project, which should help you to write an essay. This research project can be either (1) a meta-analysis testing a specific hypothesis originating from or otherwise relevant to our discussions, (2) a (qualitative or quantitative) data-analysis testing a specific hypothesis originating from or otherwise relevant to our discussions, or (3) an elaboration of a topic/research question(s) for a master’s thesis. In any case, individual essay proposals will have to be negotiated with me before the work on the presentation begins.

You need to use VC to upload your presentations (please do not send them to me by email!). The slides for the Presentation will be due by 16 p.m. Wednesday preceding the session. Each Presentation will count towards individual portfolios (see Grading below).

Own research: Essay. After the presentation, you will also have to write a corresponding essay. You should use presentation as a ground for the essay and consider all feedback! The essay should be no more than 5,000 words long (incl. text, notes and excl. references). More specific requirements will be posted on VC. All essays will be due by 8 a.m. on August 16th. That is, you will have 5 weeks to write them up after the last session. I will not accept essays past the deadline also! Use VC for uploading all coursework. Email submissions will not be accepted.

Grading. I will calculate the final grade according to the following formula: Final grade = 15% * Average grade for the discussion questions + 35% * Grade for the Presentation + 50% * Grade for the essay.

Discussion questions will be graded according to point system: 1 point per submission, with a maximum of 27 points. Discussion questions will be graded on the following scale: 1 – excellent; 2 – very good; 3 – good; 4 – satisfactory; 5 – non-satisfactory.
The presentations will be graded on a similar, albeit more refined, scale as discussion questions (i.e., allowing 1.3, 1.7, etc.). Everyone will get my feedback on the presentations, motivating my evaluation and grades.

The essay will be graded on a similar scale as presentations (i.e., allowing 1.3, 1.7, etc.). Everyone will get my feedback on the essays, motivating my evaluation and grades.

Please keep in mind that in-class discussions may substantially improve your final grade. At the same time, I will not (!) by any means penalize your lack of participation.

Please keep in mind that to get a grade and credits for this course, you need to register for the exam! The exam itself consists in submitting your portfolio, i.e., discussion questions, presentation and the essay.

This course, in conjunction with course “Interethnic Contacts” by Regine Schmidt, constitutes a module. You will be assigned a grade for each of these courses, and these grades will be combined to calculate an overall grade. This cumulative grade will subsequently be applied to the seminar for which you register under the "mit Modulprüfung / module examination" category. For the other seminar, you must register under the "ohne Modulprüfung / without module examination" designation.

**Important Deadlines.** Discussion questions: 4 PM Wednesday before each session. Presentation slides: 4 PM Wednesday before your presentation. Essays: 8 AM, August 16th.

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**Plan und literature:**

The course will consist of the following 7 meetings:

**Theoretical part**

1. **19.04.2024 (2 SWS), 12:00-14:00**

   Introduction in the topic. Recent history of (refugee) migration in Europe.


2. **03.05.2024 (4 SWS), 10:00-14:00**

   Why people move – theoretical perspectives on international migration.


Theoretical models of integration/assimilation. Integration of refugees – a special case?


3. 24.05.2024 (4 SWS), 10:00-14:00

Labor market integration of refugees in Germany and Europe: stylized facts about 2015/16 refugees and recent refugees from Ukraine.


Challenges of immigrant integration, specifics of refugees’ integration

- Human and social capital resources, gender, health
- Institutional contexts of reception and refugee labor market incorporation
- Social distances and discrimination


4. 07.06.2024 (4 SWS), 10:00-14:00
Consequences of refugee immigration – theory and empirical evidence


Q & A Session / Submission of the Expose

Practical part
In the practical meeting, we follow presentation the research results by students, discuss challenges students face while carrying out their own research and seek together for best solutions.

5. **21.06.2024 (4 SWS)**
Presentations by Groups 1–4

6. **05.07.2024 (4 SWS)**
Presentations by Groups 5–8

7. **19.07.2024 (2 SWS)**
Feedback and reflection