



## CIEE Berlin, Germany

Course title:	Jewish in Germany – Migration, Integration, and Identity
Course code:	HIST 3006 BRGE
Programs offering course:	Berlin Modified University of Pittsburgh, Berlin Open Campus Block
Open Campus Track:	Language, Literature, and Culture
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Spring Block III 2020

### Course Description

After Israel and the USA, Germany is the most important country of migration for Jewish immigrants worldwide. Jewish migration is not just a phenomenon of recent decades but is also anchored in history. There was a strong Jewish migration from Eastern Europe to Germany as early as the late 19th century. After the Holocaust there were Eastern European displaced persons who founded new Jewish communities in Germany. With the collapse of the Eastern Bloc, Jewish migration from the former Soviet Union fundamentally changed Jewish life in Germany. In recent years there has also been an increase in migration from Israel. This seminar will address Jewish migration as a part of Germany's past and present, explore integration issues from the perspective of Jewish immigrants and the non-Jewish majority, and make relevant comparisons with the current population of refugees in Germany. Co-curricular excursions will involve a visit to Berlin's famous Jewish Museum, historical walking tours, and visits to contemporary Jewish centers of arts and culture.

### Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- To develop an understanding of Jewish migration patterns to Germany in the past and present along with corresponding patterns of integration.



- To learn about the complex network of ethnic, national, religious and other factors that shape Jewish identity and the Jewish experience in Germany.
- To determine what lessons from the Jewish migration and integration experience have relevance for other groups that have migrated to Germany for political, economic or humanitarian reasons.
- To develop critical thinking and analysis skills through oral and written assignments that are designed to help students understand and engage with the course material.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

Learning will involve in-class activities, reflection, discussion, readings, films, short lectures, and out-of-class activities that help you engage with the material on a deeper level.

Assessment and Final Grade

1.	Writing Assignment 1	15%
2.	Writing Assignment 2	15%
3.	Group Project	25%
4.	Final Exam	25%
5.	Participation	20%
	TOTAL	100%

Course Requirements

Writing Assignment 1

Writing Assignment 2

Students will write 2 essays (1200 words each). The essays will require students to critically analyze the readings and offer reflections from site visits, guest speakers, class discussions, excursions, or films. Due dates are indicated in the schedule below.

Group Project



Students will work in small groups to explore an aspect of the Jewish experience in Germany related to the central themes of the course. The project may address a political, cultural, artistic, or religious topic. Each group will prepare a presentation for the rest of the class on their topic. Additional details for this assignment will be discussed in class and posted on Canvas.

#### Final Exam

The exam will give students a chance to summarize and synthesize what they have learned during this course by answering short discussion questions based on the concepts and materials covered in the class.

#### Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

#### Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.



For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.

Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to any required field placement. Students may not miss placement/work hours at an internship or service learning site unless approved in advance by the Academic Director and placement supervisor. All students must complete all of the requisite 100 minimum work hours on site at the internship or service learning placement to be eligible for academic credit.

Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:

<i>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</i>	<i>Minimum Penalty</i>
Up to 10%	Participation graded as per class requirements
10 – 20%	Participation graded as per class requirements; 3% grade penalty & <b>written warning</b>
More than 20%	Automatic <b>course failure</b> , and possible expulsion



N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

### Weekly Schedule

#### Week 1

Class 1.1 Introduction

Course Overview

Class 1.2 Excursion to the Jewish Museum

Reading:

Pinto, Why Jews Aren't Leaving Europe

#### Week 2

Class 2.1 Early Migration & Integration Tools

Jewish Migration from Eastern Europe from the late 19th Century until WWI

Reading:

Brinkmann, "From Hinterberlin To Berlin: Jewish migrants from Eastern Europe in Berlin before and after 1918."

Wertheimer, Unwelcome Strangers: East European Jews in Imperial Germany

Class 2.2 The Interwar Years: Assimilation, Recognition & Rejection

Reading:

Brenner, The Weimar Years



Week 3

Class 3.1 The Reemergence of Jewish Life after WWII

A Difficult New Beginning

Reading:

Myers, "Jewish Displaced Persons"

Brenner, In the Shadow of the Holocaust

Due date for submission of Writing Assignment 1

Class 3.2 Revival of Jewish Life

Reading:

Peck, "A New Jewish Life in Germany"

Bookbinder, Reborn Jews

Week 4

Class 4.1 Russian & Israeli Migration

Fall of the Wall: Emigration from the former Soviet Union

Excursion

Reading:

Peck, "Russian Immigration and the Revitalization of German Jewry"

Becker, "Migration and Recognition"

Class 4.2 Exodus: Israelis Flock to Berlin

Guest Speaker on Jewish Arts and Culture

Reading:



Spiegel, "Israelis Learn to Love the New Berlin"

Class 4.3 Presentations of Group Projects

Due date for submission of Group Project

Week 5

Class 5.1 Integration & the Construction of Identity

Jewish Identity Construction in a Global Context

Reading:

Shneer, "The third way: German–Russian–European Jewish identity in a global Jewish world"

Class 5.2 Anti-Semitism & Threats to Integration

Reading:

Lau, "A Rabbi Takes a Walk Down Sonnenallee"

Langer, "Time for Objectivity"

Due date for submission of Writing Assignment 2

Week 6

Class 6.1 Identity & Belonging

Citizenship, Identity and Belonging

Reading:

Swarthout, A Place They Called Home

Class 6.2 Final Exam & Concluding Discussion



## Final Exam to be completed in class

### Course Materials

#### Readings

Becker, Franziska (2003) Migration and recognition: Russian Jews in Germany, *East European Jewish Affairs*, 33:2, 20-34.

Bookbinder, P. (2008). *Reborn Jews: A New Jewish Community in Germany*. *Journal of the Historical Society*, 8(4), 503-522.

Brenner, Michael. *In the shadow of the Holocaust: The Changing Image of German Jewry after 1945*, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, 2010.

Brinkmann, Tobias, "From Hinterberlin To Berlin: Jewish migrants from Eastern Europe in Berlin before and after 1918." *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* Vol 7, No. 3 November 2008, pp. 339–355.

Dietz, Barbara (2003) Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union in Germany: History, politics and social integration, *East European Jewish Affairs*, 33:2, 7-19.

Elon, Amos. *The Pity of it All: A Portrait of the German Jewish Epoch*, Picador, 2002.

Geller, Jay Howard. *Jews in Post-Holocaust Germany, 1945-1953*, Cambridge, 2005.

Myers, M. L. (1997). Jewish Displaced Persons: Reconstructing Individual and Community in the US Zone of Occupied Germany. *The Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook*, 42(1), 303-324.

Peck, Jeffrey M. *Being Jewish in the New Germany*, Rutgers University Press, 2006.

Remennick, Larissa (2005) 'Idealists Headed to Israel, Pragmatics Chose Europe': Identity Dilemmas and Social Incorporation among Former Soviet Jews who Migrated to Germany, *Immigrants & Minorities: Historical Studies in Ethnicity, Migration and Diaspora*, 23:1, 30-58.

Shneer, David (2011) The third way: German–Russian–European Jewish identity in a global Jewish world, *European Review of History: Revue européenne d'histoire*, 18:01, 111-121.

Swarthout, Donna. *A Place They Called Home. Reclaiming Citizenship. Stories of a New Jewish Return to Germany*. Berlinica. 2018.

Wertheimer, Jack. *Unwelcome Strangers: East European Jews in Imperial Germany*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1987.