

Who's afraid of foreigners?
A comparative perspective across Israel, Germany and beyond

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The course provides a theoretical and conceptual framework for understanding anti-foreigner sentiments. The course covers a range of social science theories dealing with anti-immigrant attitudes and opposition to immigration and discusses recent research on the issue. By doing so, the course aims to enhance the student understanding of social processes that underline the discrimination and social exclusion of foreigner and immigrant groups.

Credit in Tel Aviv: 2 points. Credit in Cologne: 6 points

Format:

The course consists of four weekly meetings: An introduction and three one-day blocks.

Students will be divided into five working groups. Each group will be responsible for the presentation of one assigned topic in each block and the discussion of a presentation of another group in that block. The material (published articles) will be provided by the lecturers digitally. Each group will consist of Israeli and German students to enhance cross-country cooperation and joint work. The meetings will be conducted online.

Schedule:

Day one (12.01.2027): Introduction 17.00-18.30 (Germany) 18-19.30 (Israel)
(2 academic hours)

Day two (18.01.2027): Block 1 12.00-18.00 (Germany) 13.00-19.00 (Israel)
(8 academic hours)

Day three (25.01.2027): Block 2 12.00-18.00 (Germany) 13.00-19.00 (Israel)
(8 academic hours)

Day four (1.02.2027): Block 3 12.00-18.00 (Germany) 13.00-19.00 (Israel)
(8 academic hours).

A meeting on instructions for an expose only for the German students 18.15-19.45 (Germany).

Sequence in the blocks:

1. Preparation and group work, discussion, consultation (Germany 12:00-13:00, Israel 13:00-14:00)
2. Presentation 1+discussion (Germany 13:00-14:00, Israel 14:00-15:00)
- Exchange on presentation in group-coffee (Germany 14:00-14:30, Israel 15:00-15:30)
2. Presentation 2+discussion (Germany 14:30-15:30, Israel 15:30-16:30)
- Exchange on presentation in group-coffee (Germany 15:30-16:00, Israel 16:30-17:00)
4. Presentation 3+discussion (Germany 16:00-16:45, Israel 17:00-17:45)
5. General discussion, summary, introduction to the following block, future directions, buffer (Germany 16:45-18:00, Israel 17:45-19:00)

Examination form: Three presentations (one in each block – 50% of the grade).

For the **Israeli** students, another 50% of the grade will be based on submitting the three presentations after revising them based on the in-class reviews.

For the **German** students, another 50% of the grade will be based on an expose'. Instructions will be given in class.

Topics:

Block 1. Immigration status quo and individual predictors of anti-foreigner sentiments: Immigration trends in Germany and Israel (Group **1 & 2**); Realistic and cultural threat (Group **3 & 4**); Values (Group **5**)

Block 2. Contextual predictors of anti-foreigner sentiments: Size of foreign population and intergroup contact (Group **3 & 4**); Economic conditions and policy effects (Group **5 & 1**); Media effects (Group **2**)

Block 3. Comparative analysis of explaining anti-foreigner sentiments: Cross-country analysis of anti-foreigner sentiments (Group **5 & 1**); Longitudinal change in anti-foreigner attitudes and the explanatory role of the cohorts (Group **2 & 3**); Overview and summary (Group **4**)

Literature:

Block 1. Immigration status quo and individual predictors of anti-foreigner sentiments.

Immigration trends in Germany and Israel:

Group 1:

1. Raijman, Rebeca. "A warm welcome for some: Israel embraces immigration of Jewish Diaspora, sharply restricts labor migrants and asylum seekers." Migration Policy Institute 5 (2020).

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/israel-law-of-return-asylum-labor-migration>

Discussed by group 5.

Group 2:

2. Rietig, Victoria, and Andreas Müller. "The new reality: Germany adapts to its role as a major migrant magnet." Migration Policy Institute 4 (2016).

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/new-reality-germany-adapts-its-role-major-migrant-magnet>

Discussed by group 4.

Realistic and cultural threat:

Group 3:

1. Raijman, Rebeca, and Moshe Semyonov. "Perceived threat and exclusionary attitudes towards foreign workers in Israel." Ethnic and Racial Studies 27.5 (2004): 780-799.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0141987042000246345>

Discussed by group 2.

Group 4:

2. Jedinger, Alexander, and Marcus Eisentraut. "Exploring the differential effects of perceived threat on attitudes toward ethnic minority groups in Germany." *Frontiers in psychology* 10 (2020): 2895.

<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.02895>

Discussed by group 1.

Values:**Group 5:**

1. Raijman, Rebeca, Oshrat Hochman, and Eldad Davidov. "Ethnic majority attitudes toward Jewish and non-Jewish migrants in Israel: The role of perceptions of threat, collective vulnerability, and human values." *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies* 20.1 (2022): 17-32.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/15562948.2021.1889107>

Discussed by group 3.

Block 2. Contextual predictors of anti-foreigner sentiments.**Size of foreign population and intergroup contact:****Group 3:**

1. Menshikova, Anastasia and van Tubergen, Frank "What Drives Anti-Immigrant Sentiments Online? A Novel Approach Using Twitter". *European Sociological Review*, 38.5 (2022): 694–706.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcac006>

Discussed by group 1.

Group 4:

2. Gorodzeisky, Anastasia, and Moshe Semyonov. "Perceptions and misperceptions: actual size, perceived size and opposition to immigration in European societies." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 46.3 (2020): 612-630.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183x.2018.1550158>

Discussed by group 2.

Economic conditions and policy effects:**Group 5:**

1. Schlueter, Elmar, Bart Meuleman, and Eldad Davidov. "Immigrant integration policies and perceived group threat: A multilevel study of 27 Western and Eastern European countries." *Social science research* 42.3 (2013): 670-682.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssresearch.2012.12.001>

Discussed by group 3.

Group 1:

2. Kuntz, Anabel, Eldad Davidov, and Moshe Semyonov. "The dynamic relations between economic conditions and anti-immigrant sentiment: A natural experiment in times of the European economic crisis." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 58.5 (2017): 392-415.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0020715217690434>

Discussed by group 4.

Media effects:**Group 2:**

1. Czymara, Christian S., and Stephan Dochow. "Mass media and concerns about immigration in Germany in the 21st century: individual-level evidence over 15 years." *European Sociological Review* 34.4 (2018): 381-401.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcy019>

Discussed by group 5.

Block 3. Comparative analysis of explaining anti-foreigner sentiments.**Cross-country analysis of anti-foreigner sentiments:****Group 5:**

1. Ramos, Alice, Cicero Roberto Pereira, and Jorge Vala. "The impact of biological and cultural racisms on attitudes towards immigrants and immigration public policies." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 46.3 (2020): 574-592.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183x.2018.1550153>

Discussed by group 4.

Group 1:

2. Leykin, Inna and Gorodzeisky, Anastasia. "Is Anti-Immigrant Sentiment Owned by the Political Right?" *Sociology* 58.1(2024): 3-22.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00380385231161206>

Discussed by group 3.

Longitudinal change in anti-foreigner attitudes and the explanatory role of the cohorts:**Group 2:**

1. McLaren, Lauren, Anja Neundorff, and Ian Paterson. "Diversity and perceptions of immigration: how the past influences the present." *Political Studies* 69.3 (2021): 725-747.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0032321720922774>

Discussed by group 1.

Group 3:

2. Gorodzeisky, Anastasia. "The influx of refugees and temporal change in attitudes towards asylum seekers: A cross-national perspective." *European Sociological Review* 38.4 (2022): 648-662.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcab066>

Discussed by group 5.

Overview and summary:**Group 4:**

1. Heath, Anthony, et al. "Contested terrain: Explaining divergent patterns of public opinion towards immigration within Europe." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 46.3 (2020): 475-

488. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183x.2019.1550145>

Discussed by group 2.