The so-called refugee crisis that began in 2015 re-defined Europe’s self-perception, placing Germany very much in the focus of global attention: The government’s decision to accommodate more than a million refugees met praise and criticism alike, both inside and outside of Germany. And subsequent shifts in German public discourse and state policy have indicated the extent to which historical conversations about immigration and identity continue to impact the contemporary moment. In this course, we will address the “crisis” as treated in the German-speaking world with an eye to its representation in the media and culture, the manifold political responses, and historical debates on migration, citizenship, and diversity. Students will follow ongoing news stories, familiarize themselves with current and historical policies regarding asylum in German-speaking countries, and read, watch, and discuss depictions of migrants, refugees, and “guests” in German-language literature and film. In addition, students will be asked to compare their findings with the situation in the US in the past and present to gain a deeper understanding of the issues involved and developed a nuanced understanding of both societies.