

Title of BIP: Beyond Borders. Migrations, identities, languages.

General information

Objectives and Description:

The “Beyond Borders. Migrations, identities, languages” BIP focuses on the cultural, social and political importance of borders in the context of the important transformations that the world is currently witnessing. Borders have multiple roles, as their spatial, political and administrative functions also have important cultural, linguistic and social implications. As areas of contact and exchange between different nations, cultures and languages, borders can also be the foci of discriminatory practices of “othering”, exclusion and containment, for example when nations block or slow down movement of people, including immigration, or indeed when conflicts between nations take place. The “Beyond Borders. Migrations, identities, languages” BIP, entirely taught in English, has an interdisciplinary approach to borders. Its classes will discuss borders from multiple angles, including social and historical factors (e.g. immigration), the cultural, linguistic and political importance of borders, the building of barriers or walls to prevent the free movement of people, and the elements of social cohesion as well as fracture generated in, and because of, border areas. In line with the UNITA mission, a special focus of the “Beyond Borders. Migrations, identities, languages” BIP is the analysis of the role of borders in the context of the European Union. Recent events, including the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war, have led to questioning the stability of the international order, all the while putting the EU’s open and borderless space of exchange between different nations and communities under stress.

Methods and outcomes:

The “Beyond Borders. Migrations, identities, languages” BIP is very appealing for students from several areas in Social Sciences and Humanities, including Political Science, Sociology, Law, Modern Languages, Geopolitics, International Relations, Geography, Human Geography, Area Studies, and History, but will be of interest to other areas as well, as its themes may also suit the interests, academic profile and background of non-specialists. Given its international and interdisciplinary nature, the “Beyond Borders. Migrations, identities, languages” BIP aims to foster intercultural and inter-linguistic understanding, comprehension and dialogue between students from different universities and nationalities on a set of issues which concerns the lives of all communities at both (inter)national and socio-cultural level.

Field of Education: Social Sciences

Target audience / Participants profile: Undergraduates and MA students in any area of Social Sciences and Humanities

No of ECTS issued: 3

Language of instruction and requirements: English: the minimum requirement to apply is English language Level B1. Participants must be students in any field of social sciences and humanities. Applications from students in other disciplines may be considered, but priority will be given to students in the social sciences and humanities.

Dates for physical activity: 21-25 July 2025

Location of physical activity: Department of Cultures, Politics and Society, Lungo Dora Siena 100, University of Turin, Turin 10153, Italy.

Dates for virtual component: 18 & 28 July 2025

Virtual Component Description:

2 online synchronous meetings.

Friday 18 July 2025: morning: online meetings, introduction to the course, general welcome

Monday 28 July 2025: final online meeting: discussion and feedback

Organizing Board

Receiving/Host university:

University of Turin, Italy (massimiliano.demata@unito.it in cc unita.students@unito.it)

Sending/Partner universities:

Esterino Adami (University of Turin)
 Silvia Aru (University of Turin)
 Miguel-Angel Benitez-Castro (Universidad de Zaragoza)
 Emma Bell (Université Savoie Mont Blanc)
 Astrid Fellner (Universität des Saarlandes)
 Jussi P. Laine (University of Eastern Finland)
 Daniel Meier (Sciences Po Grenoble)
 David Newman
 Eva Nossem (Universität des Saarlandes)
 Elisabeth Vallet (University of Quebec at Montreal, Canada)

Detailed programme

1. Planned activities during virtual component:

Friday 18 July, morning: online meetings, introduction to the course, general welcome
 Monday 28 July: final online meeting: discussion and feedback

2. Planned activities during physical component:

Sunday 20 July, afternoon: Welcome reception, Olimpia Residence
 Monday 21 July, morning and afternoon: classes
 Tuesday 22 July, morning and afternoon: classes
 Wednesday 23 July, morning: classes
 Wednesday 23 July, afternoon: free
 Thursday 24 July, morning and afternoon: classes
 Friday 25 July, morning: classes
 Friday 25 July, afternoon: final exam

Application procedure

Nominations should be sent to unita.students@unito.it before 30/04/2025.