

HI109 Global History Lab: A History of the World since 1300

Seminar Leader: Marion Detjen

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Course Times: Mon and Wed 15:45–17:15

Office Hours: Mon 13:00-15:00, or by appointment

Course Description

This course is part of a longer term effort by Princeton University's "Global History Lab" to work towards an integrated, encompassing, and multi-faceted history of the world. It is taught across 22 locations around the world simultaneously; all students post and share their ideas on Princeton's online Learning Management System, Canvas. The course provides a thorough overview of global historical developments from Chinggis Khan's armies conquering China and Baghdad in the thirteenth century to the Obama years. You will explore models and concepts for explaining the cycles of world integration and disintegration, like the rise and fall of empires and the role of free trade, religious conversion and global governance. Do earlier modes of globalization help us to understand our own age? What explains European global expansion in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries? How can one explain the staggering wealth of China in the centuries up to 1750, as well as China's recent ascent? How have world wars and revolutions shaped the international system over time? What role have diseases and pandemics played? The course offers content, tools and techniques to situate any historical event, place or person in broader, globally relevant narratives, and to tell your own stories in broader contexts.

The course has three components:

- 1) The lectures by Princeton Professor Jeremy Adelman are online, to be watched asynchronously. They provide most of the historical content.
- 2) The "town halls" on Mondays are taught by Marion Detjen on campus and will go through important historical events, places and people, and practice with you the narrative mapping techniques to connect the events to each other and to the overarching histories. We will also discuss the methodological challenges posed by doing global or world history.
- 3) The team meetings on Wednesday, also taught by Marion Detjen on campus, will tackle original sources from different epochs in altogether nine case studies, focussed on the theme of statehood and statelessness. For each case study we will produce a 750 words graphic presentation, that answers a Challenge Question, with a collective draft to be worked on during the meeting, and a final version to

be posted on the Canvas Gallery for other groups around the world to view, learn from, and comment on. We will be partnered with at least one other group, to enable cross-campus discussion in depth.

The students who successfully graduate from this course will be able to enroll in Global History Lab's successive course, „History in Dialogue“, taught by Princeton University faculty in Spring Semester 2021.

Requirements

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the highest standards of academic integrity and expects students to adhere to these standards at all times. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

Attendance and special considerations due to Covid-19

Attendance at all classes is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, two absences will not affect the participation grade or require documentation. Further unexcused absences will affect the participation grade and might also affect the Case Studies grade.

Bard College Berlin does not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences, whether excused or unexcused. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

The classes will take place in person on campus, unless Covid-19 regulations tell us otherwise. When the weather allows we will have classes outside or go for an excursion into the city. You must refrain from in-person attendance if you are feeling ill. Wearing a mask inside is encouraged.

Participation, Assessment, Assignments

Due to the collaborative character of the course your consistent, active and thoughtful participation is especially important. Class sessions will include brainstormings, discussions, presentations, writing and reading periods, and you will be asked to work alone, with a partner or in a group, online and offline.

Weekly lectures by Prof. Jeremy Adelman will be accessible on Canvas. You must watch the assigned lecture BEFORE the town hall on Monday. Each lecture is about an hour long. You should also read or at least skim through one chapter per week from the textbook: *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, Volume 2. E-book copies of this text will be made available to you.

Before the case study meetings you also have to read carefully the case study materials uploaded on Canvas (the weekly challenge question and around five short written and visual primary documents; it should take you 30 to 45 minutes to read).

In the Wednesday Team Meetings, while we work on the presentations for the case studies, you will be asked to take on different roles (contributors, scribes, authors, editors, and rapporteurs). The responsible

author and the editor of the week need to be ready to finalize the collective draft and upload the presentation before Friday night on the Canvas platform. The rapporteurs need to read the comments and contributions of other classes, write short comments themselves, and informally report back to our class in the next meeting.

In lieu of the Princeton Midterm and Final Exams you will write a Midterm Essay (1500 words) and a Final Essay (3000 words) on a choice of historical questions, showing your progress in narrative mapping and in historical contextualisation. You have the option of submitting a draft of your essay a week ahead, to get feedback and possibly support from the Learning Commons, if needed or wanted.

Students receive mid- and end-of-semester grades for their seminar work. Students are entitled to make an appointment with an instructor to discuss seminar participation at any time, or may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Preparation and classroom participation:	30% (15% for weeks 1-7, 15% for weeks 8-14)
Author's Contribution to Case Studies:	20%
Midterm Essay:	20%
Final Essay:	30%

The Midterm Essay is due October at the end of Fall Break, October 22.

The Final Essay is due at the end of Completion Week, December 17.

Schedule

Week 1:

Monday, August 30: Introduction I

Please bring a historical photograph or document that is precious/interesting/relevant to you, and be prepared to explain why.

Wednesday, September 1: Introduction II

Some theory and methodology on Global History versus World History and the problems of historical universalism

Week 2:

Monday, September 6: First Town Hall

Jeremy Adelman's Lectures 1+2 (Peoples and Plunderers; Warfare and Motion); *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 11

Wednesday, September 8: Excursion to the Marien-Church

The local and the global: Let's think about how one of the oldest buildings in Berlin (built around 1250) fits into Global History.

Week 3:

Monday, September 13: Town Hall

Adelman, Lecture 3+4 (Clashing Worlds; Atlantic Worlds); *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 12

Wednesday, September 15: Team Meeting

Case Study 1: Las Casas on the Rights of Native Peoples

Week 4:

Monday, September 20: Town Hall

Adelman, Lectures 5+6 (Indian Ocean Worlds; The Worlds that Merchants Made); *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 13

Wednesday, September 22: Team Meeting

Case Study 2: Humans as Property – the Middle Passage

Week 5:

Monday, September 27: Town Hall

Adelman, Lectures 7+8 (East Asian Dynamism and the Seventeenth-Century Global Crisis; Empire and Enlightenment); *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 14

Wednesday, September 29: Team Meeting

Case Study 3: Huguenots: the First Global Refugee Diaspora

Week 6:

Monday, October 4: Town Hall

Adelman, Lectures 9+10 (The World in Revolution; States and Nations); *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 15

Wednesday, October 6: Team Meeting

Case Study 4: Native American Expulsion: Native American Sovereignty

Week 7:

Monday, October 11: Town Hall

Adelman, Lecture 11+12 (Global Frontiers; Empires and Nations); *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 16

Wednesday, October 13:

No case study; session on essay writing skills and feedback on essay drafts

FALL BREAK

Week 8:

Monday, October 25: Town Hall

Adelman, Lectures 13+14 (Worlds in Motion; Empire Redux); *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 17

Wednesday, October 27: Team Meeting

Case Study 5: Migration, Law, and Unfree Labor: Chinese in Cuba

Week 9:

Monday, November 1: Town Hall

Adelman, Lectures 15+16 (Retreat of the Elephants; The World, 1914); *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 17

Wednesday, November 3: Team work

Case Study 6: The Dreyfus Affair

Week 10:

Monday, November 8: Town Hall

Adelman, Lecture 17+18 (Civilization and its Discontents; Worlds at War); *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 18

Wednesday, November 10: Team Meeting

Case Study 7: Becoming Stateless - Jews in Nazi Germany

Week 11:

Monday, November 15: Town Hall

Adelman, Lectures 19+20 (Atrocities; Aftermaths); *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 19

Wednesday, November 17: Team Meeting

Case Study 8: Partition in South Asia

Week 12:

Monday, November 22: Town Hall

Adelman, Lectures 21+22 (Recoveries, Inventing the Third World); *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 20

Wednesday, November 24:

No Case Study; we can either have another excursion, or meet and discuss online with one of the partner groups

Week 13:

Monday, November 29: Town Hall

Adelman, Lectures 23+24 (Crisis and Globalization; The Cunning of History); *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 21

Wednesday, December 1: Team work

Case Study 9: The Rohingya in Myanmar

Week 14:

This week is exam period in Princeton; we can either prepare your Final Essays, or go on another excursion, and/or have another discussion with a partner class

Current list of Global History Lab's partner institutions and locations:

Fundación del Pino (Madrid, Spain)
Panteion University (Athens, Greece)
Potsdam University (Potsdam, Germany)
Sciences Po (Paris, France)
Al Quds University (East Jerusalem, Palestine)
American University of Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)
Bard College Berlin (Berlin, Germany)
Central European University (Vienna, Austria)
European Humanities University (Vilnius, Lithuania)
Fulbright University of Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam)
Higher School of Economics (St Petersburg, Russia)
American University of Nigeria (Wuro Hausa, Nigeria)
American University of Iraq Suleimania (Suleimania, Iraq)
Modern University of Business and Science (Beirut, Lebanon)
Brac University (Daka, Bangladesh)
Kiryandongo Settlement (Bweyale, Uganda)
Kakuma & Dadaab Refugee Camps (Kenya)
Sapienza University (Rome, Italy)
University of Nigeria Ibadan (Ibadan, Nigeria)
Los Andes University (Bogotá, Colombia)
Ahmedabad University (Ahmedabad, India)
Tuskegee University (Tuskegee, US)
Universidad Tres de Febrero (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Princeton University (Princeton US)