

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

Seminar Leader: Marion Detjen (coordination and team meetings) and Amna Qayyum from Princeton University (town halls and possibly team meetings)

Class Times: Mon 15.45 - 17.15 (team 1), Tuesday 9.00 - 10.30 (team 2), Tuesday 15.45 - 17.15 (town hall)

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Office Hours: Tue 13.45 - 15.45

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 gives you a thorough overview over global historical developments from Chinggis Khan's armies conquering China and Baghdad in the thirteenth century until today. In addition it provides tools and techniques to situate any historical event, place or person in broader, globally relevant narratives, and to eventually be able to tell your own stories in broader contexts. 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 globalisation 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? Tackling these questions means learning about the past in an integrative way, a way that connects parts of the world. It also means developing analytical tools to make sense of complex patterns. The aim of this course is to understand some of the vital forces that pull the parts together as well as those that drive them apart.

The course is mounted on Princeton's online Learning Management System, Canvas. All students will be expected to enroll, view lectures, read their case study materials, and to post their written lab results on this platform. Details on the site will be forthcoming.

The course has three main components:

- 1) The weekly **lectures** by Princeton Professor Jeremy Adelman are online on Canvas, to be watched asynchronously. They provide the overview, they ask questions and give explanations.
- 2) The **town halls** are also online but synchronous: a Teaching Assistant from Princeton will review the assigned lectures and reading, and do „Narrative Mapping“ exercises with you. You will find these exercises instrumental both for the skills you will need in your team meetings and for the challenges you will face during the midterm and final examinations.

Narrative mapping involves identifying key elements that comprise arguments about the past. They include describing the location of an event or actor, its global context, and its global significance. Being able to identify vital historical episodes and explain their importance over time is one of the key learning objectives of this course, and town halls are the setting for you to learn and practice the art of narrative mapping.

- 3) The **team meetings** are small (not more than 7 students) and taught by Marion Detjen, if possible on campus. They will tackle primary historical documents and collaboratively work on **case studies**. These case studies ask you to solve a puzzle by answering a weekly challenge question. Their main goal is to enable you to learn history better by learning together and to allow you to be the creators of historical knowledge by interpreting events in a way that engages other readers. Our meetings at BCB will focus on the theme of „statelessness“, while other teams at other universities have been allocated other themes (“Science, Medicine and Global Health,” “Trade and Integration,” “War and Peace.”) The case study materials are posted on Canvas. In every meeting, we will work on a 750 words graphic presentation of our case study. By the end of each team meeting, we will have a collective outline or draft of our presentation. Revisions to the draft will take place on Google Docs. The presentations will be posted on the Canvas Gallery for other groups from other universities around the world to view, learn from, and comment on. The first week of class will discuss the method and format of these team meetings, and during the second week of class we will practice a mock case study. There will also be time to reflect more generally on the methodological chances and challenges of doing global or world history.

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 staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. 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.

Participation, attendance, special considerations due to Covid-19

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

As the Town Hall will be taught online from Princeton, online presence and a stable internet connection is required. The Team Meetings will take place on campus. The small number of

participants will hopefully enable us to keep the security distance. Wearing a mask in class is encouraged. Temporary remote participation and/or asynchronous participation can be organised if necessary. You must refrain from in-person attendance if you are feeling ill.

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.

Assignments and Assessments

Weekly lectures by Prof. Jeremy Adelman will be accessible on Canvas. You must watch all of the assigned lectures BEFORE your team meetings. Each lecture is about an hour long. Binge-watching is not encouraged!

Before each team meeting 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).

In addition you are expected to read or at least skim through one chapter per week from the textbook: *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, Volume 2. The function of the text is to elaborate on detail and concepts raised in lectures. E-book copies of this text will be made available to you. You may access the e-book version by using the appropriate Kindle app for your computer or phone ([free download here](#)).

During and after the team meetings you will have to fulfil your assigned role in the collaborative work on the case study: contributor, scribe, editor or rapporteur. The weekly presentations have to be uploaded on Canvas by Friday night.

Both the Midterm Exam and the Final Exam will ask you to do narrative maps on a choice of historical items, and to write one or two short essays on a choice of historical questions, in an allocated time. A narrative map consists of ca. 200-250 words, an essay is no longer than 1000 words. At BCB you also have the option to write a Final Essay in lieu of the Final Exam.

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, or may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

Grade Breakdown

Attendance & Participation:	15%
Take-Home Midterm Exam:	20%
Case Studies:	30%
Take-Home Final Exam:	35%

Schedule

Week 1: August 31/September 1

This week is dedicated to enrollment, trouble-shooting access, and the completion of the “Bellini Assignment”

Week 2: September 7/8

Lecture 1: Peoples and Plunderers

Lecture 2: Warfare and Motion

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 11

First Town Hall

Teams meet this week but no case study - just to discuss the format of teamwork.

Week 3: September 14/15

Lecture 3: Clashing Worlds

Lecture 4: Atlantic Worlds

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 12

Town Hall Review for weeks 2-3

Teams to work on Case Study 1

Week 4: September 21/22

Lecture 5: Indian Ocean Worlds

Lecture 6: The Worlds that Merchants Made

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 13

Town Hall Review week 4

Teams to work on Case Study 2

Week 5: September 28/29

Lecture 7: East Asian Dynamism and the Seventeenth-Century Global Crisis
Lecture 8: Empire and Enlightenment
Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 14

Town Hall Review week 5

Teams to work on Case Study 3

Week 6: October 5/6

Lecture 9: The World in Revolution
Lecture 10: States and Nations
Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 15

Town Hall Review week 6

Teams to work on Case Study 4

Week 7: October 12/13

Lecture 11: Global Frontiers
Lecture 12: Empires and Nations
Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 16

No Case Study

In-class mid term exam in lieu of Town Hall.

- **Oct 19-25: Fall Break** -

Week 8: October 26/27

Lecture 13: Worlds in Motion
Lecture 14: Empire Redux
Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 17

Town Hall Review weeks 7-8

Teams to work on Case Study 5

Week 9: November 2/3

Lecture 15: Retreat of the Elephants
Lecture 16: The World, 1914
Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 17

Town Hall Review week 9

Teams to work on Case Study 6

Week 10: November 9/10

Lecture 17: Civilization and its Discontents
Lecture 18: Worlds at War
Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 18

Town Hall Review week 10

Teams to work on Case Study 7

Week 11: November 16/17

Lecture 19: Atrocities
Lecture 20: Aftermaths
Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 19

Town Hall Review week 11

Teams to work on Case Study 8

Week 12: November 23/24

Lecture 21: Recoveries
Lecture 22: Inventing the Third World
Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 20

Town Hall Review week 12

No teams

Week 13: November 30/December 1

Lecture 23: Crisis and Globalization

Lecture 24: The Cunning of History
Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 21

Town Hall Review week 13

Teams to work on Case Study 9

Week 14: December 7/8

No lectures, no case studies

Town Hall Review

Teams Wrap Up

Final Exam during examination period (or Final Essay Writing)