

HI109 Global History Lab – with a focus on the Global History of Berlin/Prussia/Brandenburg

Seminar Leader: Marion Detjen

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Course Times: Wed, 14:00-17:15 (please calculate extra time for rides to excursions)

Office Hours: Mon 12:00-14:00

Course Description

This course is part of a long term effort by Princeton University's "Global History Lab" to work toward an integrated, encompassing, and multi-faceted history of the world. It is taught across 22 locations around the world simultaneously. 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, through online lectures by Princeton emeritus and Cambridge University Professor Jeremy Adelman. You will explore models and concepts for explaining the cycles of world integration and disintegration, like the rise and fall of empires, colonialism, expansion, and the role of free trade. Do earlier modes of globalization help us to understand our own age? What explains European global expansion in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries? How have world wars and revolutions shaped the international system over time? In class, we will discuss the lectures, and acquire tools and techniques to situate historical events, places or persons in broader, globally relevant narratives. We will discuss the epistemological and methodological challenges, and we will work on a broad range of Case Studies which combine the local and the global with a focus on Berlin, Prussia, and Brandenburg. These Case Studies take up questions of belonging, exclusion, and othering, of citizenship and statelessness, and try to answer them using historical constellations that left their traces in Berlin as examples. In connection with the Case Studies we will undertake several excursions to historically significant places in and outside of Berlin, and analyze their global connections as well as their functions in contemporary German memory culture.

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 2023.

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

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, except the class in week 4, which will be held online, and on campus, except when we go on excursions.

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 online lectures by Prof. Jeremy Adelman will be accessible on Canvas. You must watch the assigned lecture BEFORE each sessions. Each lecture is about an hour long. You are invited to 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.

To prepare the case studies, you will have to also read the case study materials shared with you on Google classroom (the weekly challenge question and around five short written and visual primary documents; it should take you 30 to 45 minutes to read). Working on the case studies collectively you will 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.

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:	20%
Contributions to Case Studies:	30%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Essay:	30%

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

Schedule

(The schedule may be subject to change.)

Week 1: Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024 - Introduction

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

Reading:

Sebastian Conrad (2016): *What Is Global History?* - Introduction, Princeton University Press, pp. 1-16.

Week 2: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 – Medieval Colonization of Brandenburg Area

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

Case Study 1: The subjugation/expulsion/integration of the pagan Slavs by the Christian German Colonisation

Week 3: Wednesday, September 18, 2024 – Excursion to the Düppel Historic Village

Visit of the [Historic Village of Düppel](#)

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

Week 4: ONLINE: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 – Huguenot Refugees and Enslaved Africans in Berlin

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

Case Study 2: At the mercy of the Great Elector: Huguenot refugees and enslaved Africans in Berlin

Week 5: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 – Excursion to Charlottenburg Castle

Visit of the [Charlottenburg Castle Museum](#) with objects in colonial contexts.

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

Week 6: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 – Napoleon’s Entry in Berlin

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

Week 7: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 - The 1848er Revolutionaries

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

Case Study 3: Particularism and universalism among the German 1848 revolutionaries and emigrants

FALL BREAK

Week 8: Wednesday, October 30, 2024 – Excursion to the Humboldt-Forum

Visit of the reconstructed [Berlin Castle/Humboldt-Forum](#), the “Ethnological Collection”, the archeological findings in the basement, and the panorama video

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

Week 9: Wednesday, November 6, 2024 – The Maji-Maji Rebellion 1905-1907

Adelman, Lectures 15+16 (Retreat of the Elephants; The World, 1914);
Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 18

Case Study 4: The role of religion in the Maji Maji Rebellion against German colonial rule in Southeast Africa

Week 10: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 – Excursion to the Cemetery of the Martyrs of March

Visit of the [Cemetery](#) of Berliners killed in the 1848 and 1918 Revolution and memorial in the GDR

Adelman, Lecture 17+18 (Civilization and its Discontents; Worlds at War); *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 19

Week 11: Wednesday, November 20, 2024 – The Holocaust

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

Case Study 5: The global significance of the Holocaust

Week 12: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 – Excursion to the Berlin Wall Documentation Center

Visit of the Bernauer Straße Berlin Wall Documentation Center: we meet at the [Visitors' Center](#), then walk up through the Memorial to the Documentation Center.

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

Week 13: Wednesday, December 4, 2024 – Berlin as an “exile capital” and the pitfalls of German Memory Culture

Readings:

- Amro Ali (2020): On the Need to Shape the Arab Exile Body in Berlin, *dis:orient* 5.12.2020, <https://www.disorient.de/print/6372>.
- Bue Rübner Hansen (2024): The New German Chauvinism, Part 1, March 19, 2024, <https://leftcast.org/the-new-german-chauvinism-part-i/>, and Part 2, April 16, 2024, <https://leftcast.org/the-new-german-chauvinism-part-ii/>.

Case Study 6: Berlin and the Syrian Revolution 2011-2016

Online-Discussion with Amro Ali

Week 14: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 - Conclusion

This week is exam period in Princeton; we will use the time for wrapping up and to prepare your Final Essays.

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)