

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

Seminar Leader: Marion Detjen

Email: m.detjen@berlin.bard.edu

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

Office Hours: Tue, 12:00-13:00 and per appointment

Course Description

This course is part of a long term effort by first Princeton and now Cambridge University's "Global History Lab" to work toward an integrated, encompassing, and multi-faceted history of the world. It 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 Cambridge University Professor Jeremy Adelman and the textbook *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*. The course is taught simultaneously across over 20 locations around the world, with students posting and sharing their ideas on an online Gallery.

Together with the basic narratives of events you will explore models and concepts for explaining the cycles of world integration and disintegration, like the rise and fall of empires, trade and migration, colonialism, expansion, wealth, social movements, the role of free trade, etc.

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 our own Berlin-Based Case Studies which combine the local and the global, from the medieval conquest of the slavic villages in the Brandenburg area to Berlin as an exile capital in 2015. These Case Studies take up questions of colonisation, exile, exclusion/inclusion, resistance, citizenship and statelessness, and try to answer them using historical constellations that left their traces in Berlin as examples. We will also undertake several excursions to historically significant places in 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 in Spring Semester 2026.

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 when we go on excursions.

Enrollment, Participation, Assignments, and Assessment

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

You will be enrolled in the Cambridge Course through BCB. The Cambridge Course only starts towards the end of September, and we have our Berlin-based case studies that other campuses don't have. Therefore, you will find and upload some materials in our BCB Google Classroom, and others on the University of Cambridge's *Institute for Continuing Education (ICE)* platform, Moodle. That site is also the home for the course Gallery, where you can interact with peers around the world.

After enrollment, ICE **will give you access to their platform only on September 19**. From then on, the lectures and readings for each week **will be released every Thursday night**. The Berlin-based case studies will continue to be uploaded in the BCB Google classroom.

Jeremy Adelman's two weekly lectures are each about 20-30 minutes long. Reading the case study materials takes another 30 minutes, and so does reading the textbook chapter. Plus, you should practice narrative mapping. Plan accordingly (around three hours weekly preparation time per week, between Friday morning and class time on Tuesday).

If you have to prioritize: 1) read the case study, 2) listen to the lectures, 3) read the textbook chapter

We will practice narrative mapping and work on the case studies collectively, in class and during our excursions.

You will, individually and over the course of the semester:

- Write one source analysis (300 words)
- Write four "Narrative Maps" (each around 300 words) on a timeline on a padlet in our Google classroom
- Write one Case Study (around 2000 words) and upload it on Univ. of Cambridge's Gallery
- Write a Final Essay (around 3000 words), in lieu of Cambridge's Final Exams, on a historical topic of your choice.

You have the option of submitting a draft of your Final Essay a week ahead, to get feedback and possibly support from the Learning Commons, if needed or wanted.

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%
Case Study:	20%
4 Narrative Maps (5% each):	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: Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2024 - Introduction

Topics:

- Structure and requirements of the course
- What is World History / Global History / History of Colonialism / Postcolonial History

Upload (in the timeline on the Padlet in the Google Classroom)

- a historical photograph or document and 2-3 sentences that explain why/how it is interesting or relevant to you and how you relate it to history.

Read (shared via Google Classroom):

- Nazmul Sultan, What Is Colonialism? The Dual Claims of a Twentieth-Century Political Category, American Political Science Review (2024) 1–14, doi:10.1017/S0003055424000388.

Week 2: Tuesday, September 9, 2024 – Excursion to the Historic Village of Düppel

Topic: Medieval Colonization of Brandenburg Area

We meet at 2.15 pm at the entrance:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/ckcW1aMNcY3xk8zu8>

Listen (shared via Google Classroom):

- Jeremy Adelman's Lectures 1+2 (Peoples and Plunderers; Warfare and Motion)

Read (shared via Google Classroom):

- Case Study: “The medieval Christian German Colonisation of the pagan Slavs”

Week 3: Tuesday, September 16, 2024 – Excursion to the Death Dance Fresco in St. Marien Church

Topic: The Black Death and Berlin’s late-medieval society

We meet at 2.20 pm at the entrance of the church:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/3qWz8w1RDH69Krnt9>

Read (shared via Google Classroom):

- *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 11 on Crises and Recovery in Eurasia 1300-1500
- Transcription/Translation of the Death Dance Mural Verses

Week 4: Tuesday, September 23, 2024 – Practicing Narrative Mapping and Analyzing Primary Sources

Revise (on the Cambridge Platform):

- Lectures 1 and 2
- *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 11

Write (on the padlet in the Google Classroom):

- a short “narrative map” (300 words) on an item in the timeline of the padlet
- a short source analysis (300 words) on one of the sources of Case Study 1

Week 5: Tuesday, September 30, 2024 – Contact, Commerce, Colonization (1450-1600)
With Case Study on Bartolomé de las Casas

Topics: Ottoman and European Expansion, Columbian Exchange

Listen and read (on the Cambridge Platform):

- Lectures 3 and 4
- Case Study Track A (Statelessness): Las Casas on the Rights of Native Peoples
- *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 12

Week 6: Tuesday, October 7, 2024 – Worlds Entangled (1600-1750)
With Case Study on Brandenburg’s Great Elector

Topics: Slave Trade, Mercantilism, the Huguenots, Brandenburg’s Colony on the West-African coast

Listen and read (on the Cambridge Platform):

- Lectures 5 and 6
- *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 13

Read (in the Google Classroom):

Case Study: Berlin-Brandenburg’s Great Elector

Week 7: Tuesday, October 14, 2024 – Cultures of Splendor and Power (1500-1780)

Topics: Baroque culture and Enlightenment, East Asian Dynamism, the Seventeenth-Century Global Crisis

Listen and read (on the Cambridge Platform):

- Lectures 7 and 8
- *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 14

Write (on the padlet in the Google Classroom):

- a short “narrative map” (300 words) on an item in the timeline of the padlet

FALL BREAK

Week 8: Tuesday, October 28, 2024 – Revolutions, Nation States and Global Frontiers (1750-1850)

With Case Study on the German 1948ers

Topics: The French and other Revolutions, Industrial Revolution, “Free Trade”, Prophets, Rebellions, and Resistance

Listen (on the Cambridge Platform):

- Lectures 9 and 10
- Lectures 11 and 12

(We have to cover two weeks as the Princeton Course did not have a Fall Break; if you are up to it, you can also read *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 15 and 16)

Read (in the Google Classroom):

Case Study: Particularism and Universalism among the German 1848 (ex-)Revolutionaries

Week 9: Tuesday, November 4, 2024 – Nationalism and Imperialism I (1850-1914)

With Case Study on Chinese forced labor

Topics: Imperial models, new technologies, integration of the world economy, pressures of expansion in Asia and the Americas, colonizing Africa

Listen and read (on the Cambridge Platform):

- Lectures 13 and 14
- Case Study 5 on track A (Statelessness): Migration, Law, and Unfree Labor – Chinese in Cuba
- *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 17

Week 10: Tuesday, November 11, 2024 – Nationalism and Imperialism II (1850-1914)

With Case Study on the Maji Maji Rebellion

Topics: German colonialism and genocides in Africa, ecological impacts

Listen and read (on the Cambridge Platform):

- Lectures 15+16
- Case Study 6 on track C (War): Guns and Prophets – the Maji Maji Rebellion
- (*Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 17)

Week 11: Tuesday, November 18, 2024 – Excursion to the “Cemetery of the Martyrs of March”

Topics: Social conflicts, workers’ movement, cultural modernism, uprisings and pan-movements, the First World War

Visit of the [Cemetery](#) of Berliners killed in the 1848 and 1918 Revolutions

We meet at 2.15 at the entrance of the cemetery:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/C69UEhJVz7EJTSQL7> (Next Tram stop: Platz der Vereinten Nationen)

Listen and read (on the Cambridge Platform):

- Lectures 17 and 18
- *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 18

Write (on the padlet in the Google Classroom):

- a short “narrative map” (300 words) on an item in the timeline of the padlet

Week 12: Tuesday, November 25, 2024 – Wars, Mass Politics, Atrocities (1910-1945)

With Case Study on the Wannsee Conference

Topics: First World War, the Russian Revolution, Socialism, Liberal Democracy and Fascism, Second World War and the Holocaust

Listen and read (on the Cambridge Platform):

- Lectures 19 and 20
- *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 19

Read (in the Google Classroom):

Case Study: The Path to the Holocaust, the Wannsee Conference, and the “Final Solution”

Week 13: Tuesday, December 2, 2024 – Excursion with the Refugee Voices Tours

Topics: The Aftermath of WW2, the Three-World-Order, the Division of Berlin, Syria and Berlin

Meeting Point: still to be determined.

Listen and read (on the Cambridge Platform):

- Lectures 21 and 22
- *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 20

Write (on the padlet in the Google Classroom):

- a short “narrative map” (300 words) on an item in the timeline of the padlet

Week 14: Tuesday, December 9, 2024 – Discussion: Global History today?

Listen and read (on the Cambridge Platform):

- Lectures 23 and 24
- *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 21

7-9 pm: “2015-2025: Berlin the Arrival City?” – An evening with musical and literary contributions from BCB graduates

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)
American University of Central Asia (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)
Bard College Berlin (Berlin, Germany)
European Humanities University (Vilnius, Lithuania)
American University of Iraq Suleimania (Suleimania, Iraq)
Modern University of Business and Science (Beirut, Lebanon)
Brac University (Dhaka, 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)
Universidad Tres de Febrero (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Kardan University (Kabul, Afghanistan)
Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv, Ukraine)