

HI109 Global History Lab: History of the World since 1300

Seminar Leader: Louise Thatcher
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Office Hours: by appointment

Class time: Wednesday, 15:45-19:00
Credits: 8 ECTS, 4 U.S. credits

Course Description

This course takes you on a voyage into the past. Like many of the explorers you will meet along the way, you will travel across places and borders, from Mexico to Malacca. You will also travel through time, from when Chinggis Khan's armies conquered Beijing and Baghdad in the 13th century and the Black Death scoured the Eurasian world to the crisis of globalization today. Along the journey, we ask basic questions. How did strangers treat each other in past times? Do earlier modes of integration and disintegration help us to understand our own age? We consider the economic, military, scientific and cultural forces that brought the world together – and drove it apart – for the past seven centuries.

This course invites us to learn globally. It connects you to students elsewhere in the world. Across over 20 locations around the world, from Bangladesh to Chile, France to Nigeria, Argentina to Thailand, students are taking the same course simultaneously and sharing their ideas. By listening and exchanging with each other, you will learn different perspectives and co-create knowledge about the global past.

Requirements and course structure

This course is hybrid – it is both online and face to face. All the materials are posted on the Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) of the University of Cambridge platform, Moodle. When you register for the course at BCB, we will enroll you on the site. On Moodle, you will receive all the lectures, the course textbook, and the weekly case studies. The site is also the home for the course Gallery, where you will be interacting with peers around the world.

Why online? For one, the ability to watch, pause, or replay lectures on your schedule is an effective way of learning more from lectures. But there is more. Going digital allows us to go global. This is the world's first global history course in which the world is inside the course. Students learn global history globally: you will interact with other students from Europe, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia.

- **Lectures:** All lectures are pre-recorded and online. Two weekly lectures (and textbook chapter) will be posted every **Thursday** midnight (UK time) on Moodle. You can watch these lectures when it suits you, but must watch these lectures **BEFORE your weekly classes**. Each lecture is about 60-minutes long. Plan accordingly.
- **Classes.** Our class each week is made up of two parts:
 1. **Town Halls:** These are occasions to review the week's materials, especially from lectures and the textbook. We develop a tool called "Narrative Mapping." You will learn to
 - contextualize events in world history,
 - connect them,
 - and signify them (why is this or that event important)?You will find this an instrumental skill for mastering the world's past, seven centuries covering the whole planet. Town Halls are the setting for you to learn and practice the art of Narrative Mapping to give you the tools to think like a world historian!
- **Team meetings:** At the beginning of the course, you will be assigned to a team. Together with your team-mates, you will tackle a Case Study. Students will take turns writing individual "Field Reports from the Past to Our Present" based on the case study. You must read the Case Study materials for each week before class, and will have time during class to work with your team. After the team meeting, one or two students will compose a Field Report for that week and upload their Field Report to the online Gallery. **Every Friday evening, the Gallery will open to reveal all Field Reports from around the world for that week. On the Gallery, you will be invited to explore each other's arguments and leave feedback for each other.**
- **Open houses:** Every two weeks we will meet as a whole for a general discussion of world history in our times. These are voluntary gatherings – but they do allow you to meet via Zoom with Professor Adelman and students from elsewhere in the world to discuss and debate live and together on the same screen. Zoom links will be posted beforehand and you will be reminded. Open houses will generally be held mid-days on Fridays to accommodate participants from Southeast Asia to South America.
- **Readings:** The readings consist of a textbook (*Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 7th Concise edition, volume 2). The function of the text is to elaborate on detail and concepts raised in lectures. This book was written specifically for this course by a team of largely Princeton-based authors who have taught this course. Each week, we will assign one chapter of the book to read: roughly 20 pages a week.

Assessment

You will be assessed on:

- The Field Reports you are responsible for writing for your team
- Your engagement with the Field Reports written by students from other institutions,

through comments and Rapporteur Reports

- A mid-term exam.
- A final assignment. This can be either:
 - a term paper of 3000-4000 words; or
 - a creative assessment in a format of your choice. This is a new option being offered as an experiment as part of the History of the World course. There will be space to discuss this early in the semester.
 - Whichever option you choose, you will be graded on your understanding of the course information and themes, your critical engagement with primary sources, and your skill in communicating your ideas.

Grade Breakdown

Field Reports – 25%

Rapporteur Reports and online interaction – 10%

Classroom participation – 10%

Mid-term exam – 20%

Final Assignment – 35%

Deadlines:

- **Final assessments for graduating students: 2 December**
- **Final assessments for other students: 14 December**

Schedule

Wednesday September 2 – introduction

- Introduction to narrative mapping as a tool

Wednesday September 9 – HOW Week 0

- Watch before class:
 - Short welcome video

Wednesday September 16 – HOW Week 1

- Watch before class:
 - Lecture 1: Peoples and Plunderers
 - Lecture 2: Warfare and Motion
- Read before class:
 - *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 11

Friday September 18 (tbc)

- First Open House: online

Wednesday September 23 – HOW Week 2

- Watch before class:
 - Lecture 3: Clashing Worlds
 - Lecture 4: Atlantic Worlds

- Read before class:
 - *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 12
 - materials for Case Study 1

Wednesday September 30 – HOW Week 3

- Watch before class:
 - Lecture 5: Indian Ocean Worlds
 - Lecture 6: The Worlds that Merchants Made
- Read before class:
 - *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 13
 - **materials for Case Study 2**

Friday October 7 (tbc)

- Second Open House: online

Wednesday October 7 – HOW Week 4

- Watch before class:
 - Lecture 7: East Asian Dynamism and the Seventeenth-Century Global Crisis
 - Lecture 8: Empire and Enlightenment
- Read before class:
 - *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 14
 - materials for Case Study 3

Friday October 9 (tbc)

- Second Open House

Wednesday October 14 – HOW Week 5

- Watch before class:
 - Lecture 9: The World in Revolution
 - Lecture 10: States and Nations
- Read before class:
 - *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 15
 - materials for Case Study 4

Friday October 16 (tbc)

- Third Open House (online)

Wednesday October 21 – Midterm break – no class

Wednesday October 28 – HOW Week 6

- Watch before class:
 - Lecture 11: Global Frontiers
 - Lecture 12: Empires and Nations
- Read before class:
 - *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 16

Wednesday November 4 – HOW Week 7

- Watch before class:
 - Lecture 13: Worlds in Motion
 - Lecture 14: Empire Redux
- Read before class:
 - *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 17
 - materials for Case Study 5

Friday November 6 (tbc)

- Fourth Open House (online)

Wednesday November 11 – HOW Week 8

- Watch before class:
 - Lecture 15: Retreat of the Elephants
 - Lecture 16: The World, 1914
- Read before class:
 - *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 17
 - materials for Case Study 6

Wednesday November 18 – HOW Week 9

- Watch before class:
 - Lecture 17: Civilization and its Discontents
 - Lecture 18: Worlds at War
- Read before class:
 - *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 18
 - materials for Case Study 7

Friday November 20 (tbc)

- Fifth Open House (online)

Wednesday November 25 – HOW Week 10

- Watch before class:
 - Lecture 19: Atrocities
 - Lecture 20: Aftermaths
- Read before class:
 - *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 19
 - materials for Case Study 8

Wednesday December 2 – HOW Week 11

- Watch before class:
 - Lecture 21: Recoveries
 - Lecture 22: Inventing the Third World
- Read before class:
 - *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 20

- materials for Case Study 9

Friday December 4 (tbc)

- Sixth Open House (online)

Wednesday December 9 – HOW Week 12

- Watch before class:
 - Lecture 23: Crisis and Globalization
 - Lecture 24: The Cunning of History
- Read before class:
 - *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, chap. 21
 - materials for Case Study 10

Friday December 11 (tbc)

- Final Open House (online)

December 16 – completion week

- Final Open House with Professor Adelman

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.

The use of generative AI is not permitted in this course.

Accommodations

Bard College Berlin is committed to inclusion and providing equal access to all students; we uphold and maintain all aspects of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and Section 3 of the German Disability Equality Act of April 27, 2002 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 1468). If you have a disability, or think you may have a disability, please contact the Disability Accommodation Coordinator, Atticus Kleen, (accommodations@berlin.bard.edu) to request an official accommodation.

Requests for accommodations should be made as early as possible to ensure adequate time for coordination and planning. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and may require advance notice to implement.

If you have already been approved for accommodations with the Disability Accommodation Coordinator, please arrange to meet with me outside of class so that we can develop an implementation plan.

Students may face extenuating circumstances related to various personal or external factors, which impact their academic performance. While these circumstances often do not fall within the legal framework of Disability Accommodations, Bard College Berlin is committed to supporting students experiencing such circumstances. A student needing a short extension or a replacement assignment because of an extenuating circumstance is encouraged to make arrangements directly with instructors if possible. If further support is needed, please visit the [Bard College Berlin Accessibility page](#). Questions about this process can be directed to James Harker (j.harker@berlin.bard.edu) or Maria Anderson-Long (m.andersonlong@berlin.bard.edu).

Attendance

Attendance at all classes is a crucial part of the education offered by Bard College Berlin. To account for minor circumstances, two absences from twice-per-week courses or the equivalent (e.g. one absence from a once-per-week course) should not affect the participation grade or require documentation.

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

In the interests of everyone's health, please do not come to class if you are sick. Please contact me as soon as possible to arrange alternatives, such as online participation.

Policy on Late Submission of Papers

Essays that are up to 24 hours late can be downgraded up to one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where a professor agrees to accept a late assignment, it should be submitted by the new deadline agreed upon by both parties. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment. Grades and comments will be returned to students in a timely fashion. Students are also entitled to make an appointment to discuss essay assignments and feedback during instructors' office hours.

Students will receive feedback for their course work during and at the end of the semester. 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.