

History of the World (HOW) since 1300

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General Syllabus

Overview: 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 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 global nomads and pandemics of our day. Do earlier modes of globalization help us to understand our own age? How can we understand old and new global divides? The dynamics of combinations, differences, and divisions are many: spiritual, economic, environmental, ideological, military, and political. The aim of this course is to understand the big forces that pull the world's parts together as well as those that drive them apart.

This course is unique not just in its scale and scope. We learn global history globally. This course connects you to students elsewhere in the world. Across 25 locations around the world, from Vietnam and Lebanon, to France and Nigeria, from Argentina to Afghanistan, students are taking the same course simultaneously and posting and sharing their ideas on the course Gallery site.

Course format: This course is hybrid – it is both online and face to face. All the materials are posted on the Princeton University platform Canvas. When you register for the course through your institution, your name will come to Princeton and we will enroll you on the site. Through this site, 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 also 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 to create resources for you to learn global history globally. These have been vibrant sites for students to learn global history globally, talking with each other from Europe, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, South Asia, and Southeast Asia – and the United States. We will be interacting with them over the course of the semester. When you take this course, you are not just part of a Princeton course; you are part of a global course exchanging ideas in the present just as people have been doing for centuries.

Lectures: All lectures are pre-recorded and online. Two weekly lectures will be posted every **Friday** night at 22:00 EDT on Canvas. You must watch these lectures

BEFORE your weekly team meeting. Each lecture is about an hour long. Plan accordingly.

There are two obligatory face-to-face class times as well.

1. **Town Halls:** These are occasions to review the week's materials, especially from lectures. We develop a tool called "Narrative Mapping." You will find this an instrumental skill for mastering so much material – seven centuries covering the whole planet. Narrative Mapping involves identifying key elements that comprise arguments about the past. They include: location of an event or actor, global setting, and 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.
2. **Team meetings:** At the beginning of the course, you will be assigned to a team of between 7 and 12 students for the duration of the course. Together with your team-mates, you will tackle a weekly Case Study based on historical documents and your team will be tasked with solving a puzzle – answering a weekly Challenge Question. Your answer to that weekly Challenge Question will be posted on the online Gallery. **Every Friday evening, the Gallery will open to reveal all the teams' presentations of the week – and you will be invited to explore each other's ideas and leave feedback on each other's presentation.**

Readings: The readings consist of a textbook (*Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*, 3rd Concise edition, volume 2). You are free to read the "full" edition of the text, but it's 40% longer. 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. In addition, each week we will be posting primary historical documents on Canvas. As the core materials for your weekly Case Study assignment, they are always to be read before your precept meeting. For more detail on these documents, go to page 6.

Grading:

In-class mid-term exam (15%)

In-class final exam (35%)

Team participation (50%)

WEEKLY LECTURES (starting Friday evenings):

Week 1: September 2

(Lectures are released on Sunday September 4th 10:00 PM)

Lecture 1: Peoples and Plunderers

Lecture 2: Warfare and Motion

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 11

First Town Hall

First team meetings

No readings

Week 2: September 9

Lecture 3: Clashing Worlds

Lecture 4: Atlantic Worlds

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 12

Second Town Hall

Teams to work on Case Study 1

Week 3: September 16

Lecture 5: Indian Ocean Worlds

Lecture 6: The Worlds that Merchants Made

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 13

Third Town Hall

Teams to work on Case Study 2

Week 4: September 23

Lecture 7: East Asian Dynamism and the Seventeenth-Century Global Crisis

Lecture 8: Empire and Enlightenment

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 14

Fourth Town Hall

Teams to work on Case Study 3

Week 5: September 30

Lecture 9: The World in Revolution

Lecture 10: States and Nations

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 15

Fifth Town Hall

Teams to work on Case Study 4

Week 6: October 7

Lecture 11: Global Frontiers

Lecture 12: Empires and Nations

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 16

In-class mid-term exam during this week Oct 10-14

No Town Hall; no Team meeting

FALL BREAK Oct 14-21

Week 7: October 21

Lecture 13: Worlds in Motion

Lecture 14: Empire Redux

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 17

Sixth Town Hall

Teams to work on Case Study 5

Week 8: October 28

Lecture 15: Retreat of the Elephants

Lecture 16: The World, 1914

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 17

Seventh Town Hall

Teams to work on Case Study 6

Week 9: November 4

Lecture 17: Civilization and its Discontents

Lecture 18: Worlds at War

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 18

Eighth Town Hall

Teams to work on Case Study 7

Week 10: November 11

Lecture 19: Atrocities

Lecture 20: Aftermaths

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 19

Ninth Town Hall

Teams to work on Case Study 8

Week 11: November 18

Lecture 21: Recoveries

Lecture 22: Inventing the Third World

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 20

US Thanksgiving break

No Case Study**Town Hall as needed**Week 12: November 25

Lecture 23: Crisis and Globalization

Lecture 24: The Cunning of History

Worlds Together, Worlds Apart, chap. 21

Tenth Town Hall**Teams to work on Case Study 9**Week 13: December 2-9

No lectures

Open House reviews with Professor Adelman

Week 14: December 9-16

Independent review

Final Exam period December 17-23Case Studies in Global History

A vital part of this course is collaborative teamwork on historical case studies and sharing your ideas with other teams around the world on the course Gallery. The goals are:

1. To enable teams to learn history better by learning together. More minds at work will make better work.
2. To open up channels of communication between you and students in the rest of the world taking the same course on the Gallery; global history can thereby be learned globally.
3. To allow *you* to be the creators of historical knowledge – interpreting events in a way that engages other readers. Where does it say that university education means that students have to work on papers that only their professors read?

The semester's cases are divided into five thematic streams. They are: "science, medicine and global health," "statelessness," "trade and integration," "war and peace," and "civic engagement and social change." Each precept/team will be allocated a theme for the semester and explore that theme for the duration of the course. They will learn about the other themes by interacting on the Gallery.

Each team reads its own case study materials posted on Canvas. To prepare, you must:

1. Read **all** documents for your case study only. Usually, these consist of two text and two visual documents.
2. You must also watch the online lectures **before** the team meetings.
3. The textbook chapter gives you the general context for the case study.

Come prepared. Shirking your preparations will handicap your team! You can even name your team.

Precepts are where you work on projects – 750-1,000 word/graphic presentations on your Case Study. By the end of each team meeting, you should have an outline or draft of your presentation. Revisions to the draft will take place on a Google doc. Final versions of the presentation will be posted on the Gallery. The first week of class will discuss the method and format of these team meetings. Week 2 starts with the case studies.

For further detail on teamwork roles and assessments, see the document posted on Canvas called "Group Role Descriptions."

Current list of 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)

American University of Nigeria (Wuro Hausa, Nigeria)

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)

Ahmedabad University (Ahmedabad, India)

Universidad Tres de Febrero (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

Princeton University (Princeton US)

American University of Afghanistan (Qatar)

Kadar University (Kabul, Afghanistan)