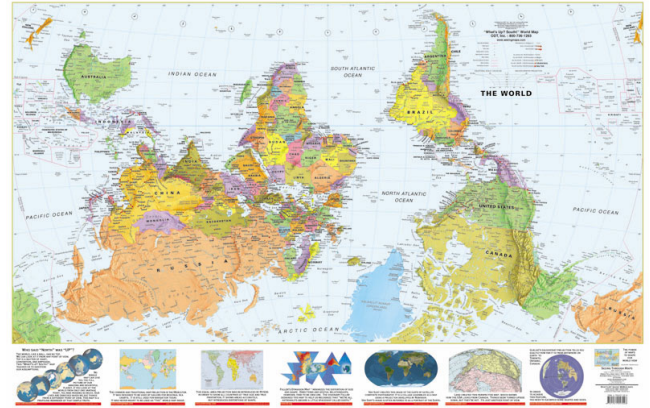


# Globalization in History

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Mondays, 5:30-8:00pm  
Wescoe 3659

Zoom Office Hours:  
T/R 12pm-2:00pm or  
by appointment  
Meeting ID:  
895 156 4503  
Passcode: 1945



This course introduces advanced students to the modes of analysis employed by scholars of global history. We will read several works that challenge our ideas about how to pose questions about the past that explicitly transcend the nation-state as a unit of analysis and allow us to attend to global phenomena. We will explore the boundaries between comparative, global, and transnational historical methods and think through a variety of intellectual challenges that global history demands we engage with, including how to periodize a “global” past, and how to think about the relationships between people, places, and processes that are revealed when we remove the conceptual barriers that national histories tend to produce.

## Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to provide advanced students with conceptual tools with which to think about globalization as an historical process and how to approach the task of researching and writing global histories.

## Requirements:

### *Class Discussion (40%)*

Befitting the colloquium model in which weekly reading makes up the bulk of your work, participation in class discussions is the central task before you in HIST705. We will discuss strategies for reading early in the semester. But, among the techniques I’ll be asking you to practice, you will be asked to come to class with 3 questions that arose while you were reading. To ask productive questions, try to imagine you could ask the author anything about the subject they explored, the choices they made, the process of developing the project, etc.. I mostly want students to engage with the readings with curiosity and open-mindedness. I do not think of class discussion as an opportunity for you to “perform” your expertise or critique books for the sake of it; instead, we will be looking to explore common areas of confusion and work through them together.

### *Oral Examination (30%)*

The goal of all the colloquia in our graduate program is to provide students with research and teaching proficiency in their chosen fields. The endpoint of your coursework is generally an MA or PhD Portfolio exam, both of which include an oral examination in which your committee queries you on historical issues and historiographical debates in the fields you have studied. Because there are so few opportunities during your coursework to practice for these exams—and because oral exams are also valuable assessments for any career path—I will be holding 30-minute oral exams at the conclusion of this course. For 20 minutes, I will pose a series of historical/historiographical questions that resemble questions you might receive on oral examinations or in job interviews regarding the state of the field of global history. Then, we will have a 10 minute debrief. Preparation for this examination is limited to our course readings—no outside research required. Our weekly discussions should help reveal some of the “big questions” that might be included in this exam.

### *Global History Essay (30%)*

What makes an effective “global history”? This assignment offers an opportunity to read a “global” history in your field of interest and a major work on the doing of global history—Sebastian Conrad’s *What Is Global History?*—and think through the limitations and possibilities of global history as a methodology in your own work. In this 1500 word essay, I want you to explicitly engage with the tension between “parts” and “wholes” in the doing of global history. We will discuss this assignment at greater length in class.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1:                      Introductions: Local and Global Concerns**

22 August

READ:

Michael Geyer and Charles Bright, “World History in a Global Age,” *American Historical Review*, 100/4 (October 1995): 1034-1060.\*

Drayton, R., & Motadel, D. (2018). "Discussion: The futures of global history," *Journal of Global History*, 13(1), 1-21.\*

*The Prospect of Global History*, Belich et al., eds.  
(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), selections.\*

Michael Lang, "Globalization and Its History," *Journal of Modern History*, 78/4 (2006): 899-931.\*

Frederick Cooper, "What Is the Concept of Globalization Good for? An African Historian's Perspective," *African Affairs* 100, no. 399 (2001): 189-213.\*

**PART I:**

**PARTS**

**Week 2:**

**Space**

29 August

READ:

Martin Lewis and Karen Wigen, *The Myth of Continents: A Critique of Metageography* (University of California Press, 1997), entire.

**Week 3:**

**LABOR DAY — NO CLASS**

**Week 4:**

**Place**

12 September

READ:

Sugata Bose, *A Hundred Horizons: The Indian Ocean in the Age of Global Empire*, 2nd edition (Harvard University Press, 2009), entire.

**Week 5:**

**Nation**

19 September

READ:

Christopher Hill, *National History and the World of Nations* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2009), entire.

**Week 6: Empire**

26 September

READ:

John Darwin, *After Tamerlane: The Rise and Fall of Global Empires, 1400-2000* (Bloomsbury Press, 2009), entire.

**Week 7: Commodity**

3 October

READ:

Scott Reynolds Nelson, *Oceans of Grain: How American Wheat Remade the World* (Basic Books, 2022), entire.

**Week 8: Fall Break — NO CLASS**

**PART II: WHOLES**

**Week 9: An Empire**

17 October

READ:

Marie Favreau, *The Horde: How the Mongols Changed the World* (Harvard University Press, 2021), entire.

**Week 10: A "World"**

24 October

READ:

Ayesha Ramachandran, *The Worldmakers: Global Imagining in Early Modern Europe* (University of Chicago Press, 2018), entire.

**Week 11: A Life**

31 October

READ:

Linda Colley, *The Ordeal of Elizabeth Marsh: A Woman in World History* (Anchor, 2008), entire.

**Week 12: A Network**

7 November

READ:

Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker, *The Many-Headed Hydra: Sailors, Slaves, Commoners, and the Hidden History of the Revolutionary Atlantic*, Reprint edition (Beacon Press, 2003), entire.

**Week 13: A Diaspora**

14 November

READ:

Mae Ngai, *The Chinese Question: The Gold Rushes and Global Politics* (W.W. Norton, 2021), entire.

**Week 14: THANKSGIVING — NO CLASS**

**Week 15: A Pathogen (Or Two...or Three...)**

28 November

READ:

Kyle Harper, *Plagues Upon the Earth: Disease and the Course of Human History* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2021)

**Week 16: A Planet**

5 December

READ:

Paul Warde, Libby Robin, and Sverker Sörlin, *The Environment: A History of The Idea* (Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018)

**PART III: FINAL ASSIGNMENTS**

Monday, 12 December

Oral Examinations

Thursday, 15 December

Essay Due on BB by 11:59pm