

Global History: Approaches, Themes and Debates (A006684)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Coghe, Samuël

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Middle East Studies)	5	A
Master of Arts in Global Studies	5	A
Master of Arts in History	5	A
Exchange Programme Global Studies and World Societies	5	A
Exchange Programme History	5	A
Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences	5	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Global history; world history; (post)colonial and imperial history; transnational history; global studies; area studies; postcolonial studies

Position of the course

This course provides an overview of key approaches and contributions to global history. Global history is an important subfield of both history and global studies that has gained prominence in academia (and beyond) over the past two decades in the so-called 'global turn'. Global history has been and can be defined in different ways, from the history of the whole world and the history of global integration to the history of cross-border movements of human and non-human animals, goods, practices and ideas and how these 'connections' shaped historical change at different (local, national, regional, global) level. In this course, students will learn to understand different approaches to and definitions of global history, including their theoretical and methodological underpinnings and the main points of criticism that have been levelled against them. They will also gain an overview of important themes and debates within global history.

Exchange students may take up this course unit, for which no knowledge of Dutch is required.

Contents

This course has three main parts. The first one offers a broad introduction to diverging definitions of, and approaches to, global history. The second part zooms in on how global history can deal with the analysis of historical change in space and time in different yet not necessarily contradicting ways, by using different methodological tools and perspectives, such as micro- and macrohistory, the history of circulations and disconnections, or the analysis of global moments and

longue durée-change. The third and final part focuses on key themes and debates in global history such as slavery, capitalism, colonialism, gender and science. Students read core texts at home in preparation for the weekly discussion in class.

Initial competences

Bachelor degree

Final competences

- 1 To have the ability to use advanced insights into historical conceptual frameworks (in English) to analyse and evaluate new and complex ideas.
- 2 To have the ability to critically use insights into global history to analyse complex problems and to formulate possible research questions.
- 3 To have the ability to take a critical approach to the history of a particular period, region or subject.
- 4 To have the ability to critically analyse and make original use of current international academic debates in the field of global history (in English).
- 5 To have the ability to recognize the dynamics, processes and recurrences in complex historical situations.
- 6 To have the ability to form nuanced and value conscious opinions on historical questions.
- 7 To be able to approach a problem systematically from multiple perspectives (multiperspectivism).
- 8 To have the ability to present the results of historical research, to both experts and peers, in a clearly structured oral presentation or written text, in clear and academically correct English.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Students read core texts (usually in English) at home in preparation for the weekly discussions in class. Active participation required. There will regularly be group work in class. The lecturer(s) will introduce and guide the discussions. The seminar sessions will not be recorded.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Syllabus

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: Powerpoint Presentations

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Sebastian Conrad: *What is Global History?*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2016.

Gänger, Stefanie; Osterhammel, Jürgen (eds.), *Rethinking Global History*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024.

Course content-related study coaching

Individual appointments during office hours. Office hours will be announced on UFORA.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Continuous assessment (during the term) based on active participation during class, written assignments and oral presentation.

Periodic assessment (during the examination period) in the form of a written exam related to the course content.

Calculation of the examination mark

30% continuous assessment (active participation in class, written assignments, oral presentation)

70% written exam related to the course content.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Class attendance is mandatory and will be included in the calculation of the final score;

2. Seminars will not be recorded but sufficient online learning material will be provided;

3. Advice and feedback can be given by email instead of through appointment during office hours.

Working students should contact the lecturer(s) and the monitoring service of the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy.

For more information concerning flexible learning: <https://www.ugent.be/student/nl/administratie/flexibel-studeren>