



**TOR VERGATA**  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA

**Corso di Laurea in Scienze della Amministrazione e delle Relazioni Internazionali**  
**Anno Accademico 2024/2025**

**Programma del Corso**  
**Global History**  
**9 - CFU**  
**Prof. Enrico Acciai**

### **General description:**

Global History has come into its own as a scholarly enterprise at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Spurred by ongoing processes of globalisation, it flourishes as one of the most critical developments in the discipline of history today. This course will introduce students to the literature on and practice of global history, looking at the relationship between Europe and the rest of the world from the late eighteenth century to the beginning of the twenty-first century. In this course, global Entanglements and local specificities, interactions, and hierarchies will be expressed in critical historical approaches. Moreover, global history will be investigated on defined objects and multiple scales (of objects themselves, time and space). The course will be divided into two main parts. After a week dedicated to the historiographical debates related to Global history, the main focus of the classes will be on Actors and Spaces on a global scale. Students will be expected to write a short research paper on a topic in global history.

### **Learning Objectives:**

The course aims to provide students with solid knowledge and the ability to navigate the dynamics of global history from the late nineteenth century to the present day. By the end of the course, students will have a good knowledge of political and institutional events in a transnational and global dimension; they will be able to think globally about the historical-political and institutional transformations. The teaching activity of this module aims to strengthen the following skills: **Critical Thinking:** Students will be developing their ability to analyse critically both historical and present events from a global perspective.

**Reading:** Students will become active readers who can articulate their interpretations with an awareness and appreciation of multiple perspectives. Each lecture will include discussions to ensure students have completed their assigned reading. These discussions will also foster a collaborative classroom environment where students collectively analyze the significance of historical developments.

**Writing:** Students will be able to offer complex and informed analyses of historical documents. They will practice writing as a process of inquiry and engage other writers' ideas as they explore and develop their voices as a writer. As shown below, over the course of the semester, students will complete a process-oriented writing assignment that emphasises analysis over description. **Communication:** Students will demonstrate the skills needed to participate in a dialogue that builds knowledge collaboratively, listening carefully and respectfully to others' viewpoints while articulating their own ideas and questions.

### **Teaching Method:**

The teacher will combine lectures with readings, films, and discussion, and will analyze a variety of primary sources, such as novels, newspaper articles, documents, advertisements, and documentaries.

Students are asked to actively participate in discussions and are strongly encouraged to read the extra readings the teacher will suggest every week.

**Contents:**

Every week consists of 3 classes (2 hours each).

<b>Week 1</b>	Why global history? The historiographical debate, and beyond
<b>Week 2</b>	<i>Actors</i> . Migration and exile: the making of the modern global world
<b>Week 3</b>	<i>Actors</i> . Transnational War Volunteers as global actors in Modern Times
<b>Week 4</b>	<i>Actors</i> . Global radical lives
<b>Week 5</b>	Mid-Term test and “How to write a research paper”?
<b>Week 6</b>	<i>Spaces</i> . Revolutions in global perspective
<b>Week 7</b>	<i>Spaces</i> . Globalizing the decolonization
<b>Week 8</b>	<i>Spaces</i> . Red Internationalism
<b>Week 9</b>	A global approach to our times and general conclusions of the course

**Textbooks:**

- Sebastian Conrad, *What is global history?* (Princeton, 2016)
- Richard Drayton and David Motadel, “Discussion: the futures of global history” in: *Journal of Global History*, (2018) 13, pp. 1-21 [a copy of this article will be provided by the Teacher during the first week of classes]

*Students will also have to choose one book from the following list and discuss it at the final oral exam (two books for non-attending students):*

- Enrico Acciai, *Garibaldi’s Radical Legacy: Traditions of War Volunteering in Southern Europe* (New York, 2020)
- Michael Goebel, *Anti-imperial metropolis: interwar Paris and the seeds of third world nationalism* (Cambridge, 2015)
- Salar Mohandesi, *Red Internationalism. Anti-Imperialism and Human Rights in the Global Sixties and Seventies* (Cambridge 2023)
- David Motadel, *Revolutionary World. Global Upheaval in Modern Age* (Cambridge 2021)
- Brigitte Studer, *Travelers of the World Revolution: A Global History of the Communist International* (Verso, 2023)
- Martin Thomas, *The End of Empires and a World Remade: A Global History of Decolonization* (Princeton 2024)

**Description of the methods and criteria for verifying the learning:**

The exam assesses the student's overall preparation, the ability to combine knowledge about each part of the syllabus, the coherence of argumentation, the analytical ability, and the autonomy of judgment. In addition, the student's command of language and clarity of presentation are also assessed, in adherence with the Dublin descriptors (1. *knowledge and understanding*; 2. *applying knowledge and experience*); 3. *Making judgments*; 4. *learning skills*; 5: *communication skills*).

The final grade will be based 70% on the student's depth of knowledge and 30% on the student's ability for expression (written and oral) and independent critical thinking.

The exam will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

**Failed: significant** deficiencies and inaccuracies in the knowledge and the understanding of the subject matter; poor analytical and synthesizing skills, recurrent generalizations, limited critical and judgmental skills; the arguments are exposed inconsistently and with inappropriate language.

**18-20:** Knowledge and understanding of topics barely adequate, with occasional generalizations and imperfections possible; sufficient capacity for analysis synthesis and autonomy of judgment, the arguments are frequently exposed in an incoherent manner and with inappropriate/technical language;

**21-23:** Fair knowledge and understanding of the subject; proper analysis and synthesis skills with coherent, logical argumentation and appropriate/technical language.

**24-26:** Moderate knowledge and understanding of the subjects; good analytical and synthesis skills with arguments expressed rigorously but with language that is not always appropriate/technical.

**27-29:** Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the subjects; remarkable analytical and synthesis skills. Good autonomy of judgment. Topics expounded rigorously and with appropriate/technical language.

**30-30L:** Excellent level of in-depth knowledge and understanding of the subjects. Excellent skills in analysis, synthesis, and independent judgment. Arguments are expressed in an original way and with appropriate technical language.

#### **Assessment methods:**

Attending Students:

The assessment for this module is as follows

#### Summative:

Mid-term Test (**35% of the final mark**) Research Paper (**55% of the final mark**) Final Oral Exam (**10% of the final mark**)

#### Description:

A short-written examination composed of **6 open questions** will be held in mid-term to understand how familiar the students have become with the arguments of the course. The questions will be based on the teacher's lessons and the mandatory readings by Sebastian Conrad and Gareth Austin. Only students who attended 80% of the classes will be admitted to the mid-term tests. The time at students' disposal will be **45 minutes**.

Every answer will be evaluated from 0 to 5. Therefore, the highest possible mark in each mid-term test will be 30/30. The student will pass the mid-term if he gets at least 18/30. Students who will succeed in the mid-term test will be admitted to the final oral exam, where they will be asked to discuss the second block of the course and the chosen book. The mid-term marks will be valid until September 2023 exam round.

Students **who fail the mid-term test must** undergo a final oral examination on all the programs and the chosen books.

A 2.500 to 3.000 words **research paper** (either in English or Italian) will be submitted by the last week of the term.

Non-Attending Students:

The assessment for this module is as follows

#### Summative:

Final Oral Exam (**100% of the final mark**)

Description:

Non-attending students will have to undergo an oral examination of the course's general textbooks and the **two chosen books**.

**Office Hours**

TBC

Contacts: [enrico.acciai@uniroma2.it](mailto:enrico.acciai@uniroma2.it)