

GLOBAL CULTURES



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



SECOND CYCLE DEGREE / TWO-YEAR MASTER'S IN
GLOBAL CULTURES

AY 2024/2025

ALMA MATER STUDIORUM ~ UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND CULTURES
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SECOND CYCLE DEGREE / TWO-YEAR MASTER'S IN GLOBAL CULTURES

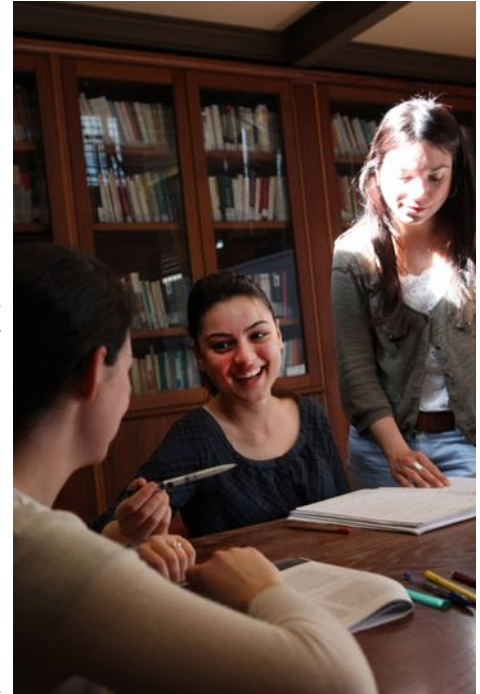
The International Master's Degree Program in Global Cultures is taught entirely in English and is designed to provide students with the tools and skills necessary for a profound understanding of the historical dimension of globalization processes. To achieve this goal, we take an interdisciplinary approach, examining political, economic, and cultural phenomena that have connected different regions of the world throughout various historical periods going beyond the traditional categories used in national or imperial historiographies.

Through this approach, our program aims to equip students with a global and non-eurocentric perspective for analyzing contemporary realities critically. Global Cultures is open to students from diverse academic backgrounds, including history, socio-anthropology, political thought, and geography. It is particularly well-suited for those interested in exploring the historical dimension of global cultural processes and transnational cultural dynamics who wish to develop a global and interdisciplinary perspective on contemporary cultural issues.

The program offers a broad spectrum of skills, including intercultural communication and understanding the interconnections between global and local processes. It is designed to meet the demand for multidisciplinary training for both Italian and international graduates, preparing them for international career opportunities in the cultural industry, public administration, NGOs, and various professional settings. It also serves as an excellent foundation for pursuing doctoral studies, both in Italy and abroad.

In the first year of the program, students can choose from two primary thematic blocks, which cover theoretical and methodological competencies and encompass historical as well as anthropological, theoretical-critical, and geographical subjects. Two additional blocks in the first year provide area-specific knowledge and insights into the connections between different regions. Furthermore, in the first year, a Senior seminar in global humanities will be conducted, featuring 8-hour seminars led by specially invited scholars, including international experts, to delve into themes and issues not covered by the core faculty. During the second year, students will acquire further historical analytical tools related to specific temporal contexts and gain expertise in various aspects of globalization processes, allowing them to build a comprehensive and specialized educational path.

The program places a strong emphasis on experimenting with new research tools and teaching methods. Faculty research is readily accessible to students through seminars, labs, guided individual research, and more. There is a particular focus on exploring the opportunities presented by the growing digitalization of the humanities. As part of a small annual graduate cohort, students become part of a tight-knit and dynamic community engaged in global research projects that incorporate various media and methodologies. Prospective students should already have a solid understanding of research tools, languages, and practices within the humanities. They should also possess a critical perspective and insight into historical matters, while being aware of the evolving nature of historiography and academic discourse within broader temporal and cultural contexts. Applicants who are familiar with comparative methods, spatial, chronological, and thematic approaches to historiographical research are strongly encouraged to apply. Additionally, students must be proficient in oral communication and demonstrate strong English writing skills.



COURSE STRUCTURE

Conditional upon the ministerial approval

First year

1. GLOBAL AND ENTANGLED HISTORIES

One elective from the following list:

– GLOBAL HISTORY

Europe in Global History (Marica Tolomelli)

Transnational Social Movements and Political Cultures (Paolo Capuzzo)

– ENTANGLED HISTORIES

History of Cultural Exchanges and Social Interactions in the Modern Era (Giulia Bonazza)

Global Visions and Political Networks (Or Rosenboim)

2. CULTURES, POLITICS, SPACES

Two electives from the following list:

– ANTHROPOLOGY IN A GLOBAL WORLD

Anthropology of Globalization (Tba)

Global Health and Suffering (Ivo Quaranta)

– CRITICAL THEORY

Critical Theories of Contemporary Capitalism (Sandro Mezzadra)

Feminist Critiques of Political and Social Thought (Paola Rudan)

– GEOGRAPHY OF GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Geographies of Climate Change (Tim Raeymaekers)

Geographies of Migration (Martina Tazzioli)

3. CULTURAL SPHERES

Two electives from the following list:

– THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN THE EURASIAN CONTEXT (Cigdem Oguz)

– INTELLECTUAL HISTORY OF COLONIAL AND POST-COLONIAL SOUTH ASIA (Saverio Marchignoli)

– NARRATIVES ON OTHERS AND SELF IN ARAB CULTURE (Giuseppe Cecere)

– AFRICA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN (Karin Pallaver)

4. CONNECTED WORLDS

Two electives from the following list:

– INDIGENOUS AMERICAS, COLONIALISM, AND GLOBALIZATION (Davide Domenici)

– GLOBAL DIASPORAS. CULTURES, IDENTITIES, AND POLITICS (Ruba Salih)

– ATLANTIC AND GLOBAL HISTORY OF MODERN POLITICAL CONCEPTS (Raffaele Laudani)

– ENTANGLED HISTORY AND RELIGIONS (Cristiana Facchini)

5. COMPULSORY ACTIVITY

– SENIOR SEMINAR IN GLOBAL HUMANITIES

Second year

6. HISTORICAL CONTEXTS IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

One elective from the following list:

- ROME AND THE UNIVERSAL (Alessandro Cristofori)
- CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS IN THE MEDIEVAL WORLD (Irene Bueno)
- EUROPE AND THE EAST IN THE MODERN ERA (Chiara Petrolini)
- RUSSIA IN GLOBAL HISTORY (Vanessa Voisin)

7. GLOBAL ISSUES

Three electives from the following list:

- CONSUMER CULTURE (Roberta Sassatelli)
- CRITICAL GEOPOLITICS (Claudio Minca)
- LANGUAGE AND LATE CAPITALISM (Aurora Donzelli)
- KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND STORAGE BEFORE THE PRINTED BOOK (Giulio Iovine)
- THEORIES OF EMPIRE (Tba)
- MIGRATIONS AND ETHNOGENESIS IN MEDIEVAL TIMES (Tba)

8. ELIGIBLE COURSES AMONG UNIBO TEACHINGS

Students select 12 credits from the teaching activities offered by the University of Bologna

9. FINAL EXAMINATION

Students can select one from the following options:

- FINAL EXAMINATION
- FINAL EXAMINATION WITH PREPARATION FOR THE FINAL EXAMINATION ABROAD
- FINAL EXAMINATION WITH STAGE ABROAD



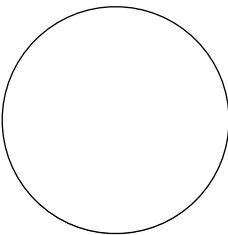
COURSE UNITS

AFRICA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN – Karin Pallaver



During the course, students will learn how to critically engage with the historiographical debates that characterize the fields of Indian Ocean Studies and African History. They will reflect on the historical and cultural connections between the African continent and the Indian Ocean World and what this meant for the societies involved. Students will gain an understanding of processes of South-South relations within the Global South and learn how to adopt a *longue-durée* perspective in the study of history.

ANTHROPOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION – Tba



Students will develop a deep understanding of a global perspective in anthropology. Students will also develop a critical approach to the relationships between local contexts and global dynamics, with specific attention to processes of indigenization, deterritorialization and hybridization of cultural flows.

ATLANTIC AND GLOBAL HISTORY OF MODERN POLITICAL CONCEPTS – Raffaele Laudani



At the end of the course students will acquire the fundamental methodological and theoretical tools of the so-called «Atlantic History», which redefines the spatial limits of Modern politics, considering Europe, Africa and the Americas as part of one and the same global experience. This perspective well developed in North American universities will be extended to the history of political concepts, with a special attention to antagonistic political cultures and resistance movements, but also to the colonial dimension embedded in the great classics of Modern and contemporary political thought.

CONSUMER CULTURE – Roberta Sassatelli



At the end of the course students acquire a critical understanding of the historical development of consumer capitalism, the fundamental elements of contemporary sociological theories of consumer action and the main issues related to the politics of consumer culture. They are able to consider how theories work in practice, by addressing key contemporary empirical phenomena in the sphere of consumption, with particular attention to social boundaries and social identities, commercial institutions and the new challenges posed by environmental issues and the process of globalization/localization.

CRITICAL GEOPOLITICS – Claudio Minca



This course is designed to provide the students with a theoretical and empirical understanding of contemporary geopolitics and its consequences in shaping what is often presented as ‘the world order’. By the end of the course the students will have a robust knowledge of the historical foundations of geopolitics and of its role in the shaping of European imperialism and colonialism and a clear understanding of the relationship between geopolitics and nationalism and will be able to critically assess a broad range of contemporary geopolitical case studies.

CRITICAL THEORIES OF CONTEMPORARY CAPITALISM – Sandro Mezzadra



Through the critical review of classical theories of capitalism, students will be able to discuss both fixed and invariant elements in the development of modern capitalism and what makes peculiar its contemporary forms. They will acquire specific awareness of some of the most important concepts in present intellectual and political debate, such as globalization, financialization, etc.

CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS IN THE MEDIEVAL WORLD – Irene Bueno



After completing the course, students are familiar with the main theoretical, methodological tools of global and intercultural perspectives for the study of the medieval world including religious phenomena and dynamics. They can critically identify the socio-cultural matrix of religions, as well as connections, developments, persistence and transformations of religious phenomena with a critical approach to periodization and can address and solve issues related to the management of cultural and religious pluralism.

ENTANGLED HISTORY AND RELIGIONS – Cristiana Facchini



By the end of the course students will have acquired a thorough knowledge of the methods and historiography necessary for the study of religions in interconnected contexts. They will be able to analyze different source material in order to understand and describe how religions create their worldviews and interact with the broader cultural, economic and material context.

EUROPE AND THE EAST IN THE MODERN ERA – Chiara Petrolini



At the end of the course students will be aware of the global dimension of Early Modern economy and society and, more specifically, of how geographical discoveries, colonialism, and capitalist expansion created a web of connections between Europe and the East. They will also show an understanding on how these relationships gave rise to - and were affected by - forms of representation that eventually came to be known as Orientalism.

EUROPE IN GLOBAL HISTORY – Marica Tolomelli

Through direct contact with some specific research fields students will be able to show capacity of a critical use of sources and literature as well as to apply research perspectives and methodologies aimed at challenging Eurocentric paradigms. Students will acquire awareness of research problems in a wide range of topics drawn from migration history, history of ideas circulation, social conflicts, transnational mobilization processes, power relations and resistance strategies, global labour history.

FEMINIST CRITIQUES OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL THOUGHT – Paola Rudan

At the end of the course students will acquire a knowledge of the ways in which women had historically criticized the theoretical justification of their subordination articulated in Western political and social thought. By applying the fundamental tools of feminist and post-colonial theories, the course will provide an historical analysis of political and social concepts – such as authority, freedom, rights, citizenship, society, labor – as the expression of gendered relations of power.

GEOGRAPHIES OF CLIMATE CHANGE – Tim Raeymaekers

At the end of the course, the students will be able to use and apply geographic concepts and place the climate crisis in a wider geographic and historical frame. They will be able to assess humanity's critical relation with the Earth's natural resources, with ecological risk, with food security and with climate resilience using a geographic conceptual and methodological framework. The dynamic teaching method will enable them to acquire the theoretical and empirical skills to critically analyse the global strategies of climate resilience in relation to uneven economic development.

GEOGRAPHIES OF MIGRATIONS – Martina Tazzioli

This course is designed to provide students with a theoretical and empirical understanding of the geographies of migration control and of migrants' struggles with a specific focus on Europe. At the end of the course unit students will have acquired awareness of debates in the domain of geography with respect to contemporary migration. Students will be able to provide an advanced understanding of key theoretical debates about migration, space and human geography, and will demonstrate a solid ability of critically engaging with migration geography literature and concepts.

GLOBAL DIASPORAS. CULTURES IDENTITIES AND POLITICS – Ruba Salih

Students will learn about diasporic cultures, imaginaries, consciousness, subjectivities and practices across a variety of contexts and will be able to assess the stakes of 'diaspora' as an analytical concept as well as lived experience. Students will also learn about the importance of intertwining critical race theory with ethnography in order to understand diasporic subjectivities are racialised. The course will also equip students with decolonial approaches and methodologies to migration and diaspora studies.

GLOBAL HEALTH AND SUFFERING – Ivo Quaranta



Students will develop a critical understanding of global health policy as a historical, political and moral assemblage to deal with the consequences of global inequalities. They will also gain an appreciation of illness and suffering as the personal embodiment of broader social processes within local moral worlds embedded in historically deep and geographically broad social dynamics.

GLOBAL VISIONS AND POLITICAL NETWORKS – Or Rosenboim



At the end of the course unit students will have acquired an understanding of the concept of entangled history centered around global political networks. Students will also have familiarity with the ways in which global visions have emerged in the twentieth century, and with their critiques and will have gained knowledge of the ways that influential ideas and ideologies have shaped historical events and processes on global scale. Students will have identified the relevance of different traditions of global thinking including internationalist, liberal, anti-imperialist and federal approaches.

HISTORY OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND SOCIAL INTERACTIONS IN THE MODERN ERA

Giulia Bonazza



At the end of the course unit students will have acquired the capacity to use an entangled history methodological perspective using primary sources and literature on cross-cultural exchanges, mobilities of people and goods, and social interactions between different parts of the world but also within the same geographical space in the 18th and 19th century.

INDIGENOUS AMERICAS, COLONIALISM, AND GLOBALIZATION – Davide Domenici



At the end of the course students will be aware of the political, economic, and cultural dimensions of the European colonization of America and of its relationship with the early modern globalization. Students will be able to recognize the active role played by indigenous groups and individuals in the shaping of the emerging global world. Students will be also able to contextualize the European conquest of America within a global historical and cultural framework, as well as to independently engage in the critical analysis of historical sources and early modern ethnographic records.

INTELLECTUAL HISTORY OF COLONIAL AND POST-COLONIAL SOUTH ASIA

Saverio Marchignoli



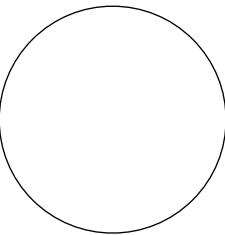
Students will acquire high-level knowledge of intellectual transformations and history of thought in modern and contemporary South Asia, specifically during the colonial and post-colonial period. Students will know in depth the issue of religious and social reforms and recognize the main theoretical positions emerged in the current debate on the historiographical and anthropological representation of the development of South Asian society.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND STORAGE BEFORE THE PRINTED BOOK – Giulio Iovine

At the end of the course students will have a critical understanding of the different systems of attainment, transfer and conservation of knowledge in ancient societies all over the world. Students will be able to analyze the methods and procedures of exchanging and archiving wisdom in different cultures and will be able to compare them in regard of their specific aims and their effectiveness in storing knowledge and information, with special attention to material aspects.

LANGUAGE AND LATE CAPITALISM – Aurora Donzelli

The primary goal of this course is to explore the multifaceted interconnection between language and late/neoliberal capitalism. By the end of the course, students will show an understanding of the role that language plays in producing and unraveling contemporary global capitalism. Whether we see it as a commodity, a form of symbolic capital, a means of production, a disciplinary script, or a subversive technique of emancipation, language participates both in structuring and undermining the forms of political rationality and moral subjectivity that characterize our neoliberal present.

MIGRATIONS AND ETHNOGENESIS IN MEDIEVAL TIMES – Tba

At the end of the course, students will be able to recognize the main processes of migration, mobility and ethnogenesis in the medieval Mediterranean since the 5th century AD. They will be able to analyze with methodological rigor a rich typology of sources, cross-referencing their data to identify connections, developments, persistence, and transformations of historical phenomena with a critical approach to periodization; they will be able to use the main bibliographical reference resources and to read historiography critically.

NARRATIVES OF OTHERS AND THE SELF IN ARAB CULTURE – Giuseppe Cecere

At the end of the course students will have acquired a varied set of tools for proper linguistic analysis, historical contextualisation and critical deconstruction of narratives and representations connected to the issues of «identity» and «otherness» produced within the Arab World. Students will be able to demonstrate awareness of inner diversity and multiplicity of the complex cultural construction usually referred to as «the Arab World», thus fighting stereotyped and oversimplified representations from both «outside» and «inside» that world.

ROME AND THE UNIVERSAL – Alessandro Cristofori

The course aims at examining the conceptual grounds of the Universal claim, which are to be connected to political-military elements as well as to cultural and juridical patterns. The roman idea of a Universal empire will be compared to other contemporary Universal empires, like e.g. Alexander the Great's empire or the Chinese Han dynasty's Empire, as well as analyzed with a diachronic approach by taking into account how the notion of universal imperial rule has shaped the idea of international order after the end of Antiquity, from the Middle Ages to the present days.

RUSSIA IN GLOBAL HISTORY – Vanessa Voisin



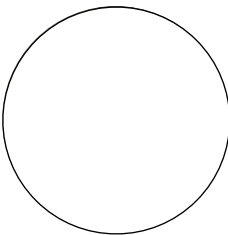
Students will acquire an understanding of the historical role played by Russia at a global level, especially as a key region located at the intersection of the European and Asian worlds. Students will be able to critically engage the study of Russian political, economic, social and cultural history, being capable to adopt sound theoretical frameworks and to read a wide set of different relevant sources. At the end of the course, students will also be able to deploy their analytical skills in professional activities linked with the popularization and public use of historical knowledge.

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN THE EURASIAN CONTEXT – Cigdem Oguz



After completing the course students have a detailed historical knowledge of the main cultural, social and political transformations that took place in the Islamic world and in the Middle East from the 13th century to the contemporary era. They have analytical skills and are familiar with the theoretical, methodological and technical tools of the historical-religious disciplines and the social sciences for the study of relations between confessions and religions in the context of the Ottoman Empire, with attention to the socio-political implications of the interaction among groups.

THEORIES OF EMPIRE – Tba



At the end of the course, students will be able to analyse critically the social, political, and legal discourses which offered a justification for colonial conquest and imperial domination on the global scale in modern European thought. By showing the interconnectedness between liberalism and empire, the course sets out to demonstrate how key notions of modern political thought – such as liberty, property, improvement, and civilization – were instrumental to the practical “success” of the European imperial project.

TRANSNATIONAL SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND POLITICAL CULTURES – Paolo Capuzzo



Aim of the course is to provide a theoretical framework and methodological tools, which will enable students to acquire a sound understanding of the transnational approach to global history. The critical analysis of sources will be the object of collective discussion. At the end of the course students will be familiar with the main historiographical trends in the field of global and transnational history and they will develop a research experience on specific processes of social mobilization in relationship with the formation of transnational political cultures in the 19th and 20th century.

OPPORTUNITIES



Study grants and subsidies



Opportunities abroad



Double degree at Bielefeld University (Germany)



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DiSCi – Department of History and Cultures
Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna

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GLOBAL CULTURES

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