Globalization is the commonplace characterization of the age. Although most agree that something is going on, there are those who argue that it is not all that new (that the world is less global today than at some point in the past), and others challenge the extent of recent developments. Many see globalization as a phenomenon of integrated capital markets, whereas others see it as a more general process of economic integration. Some see it as the product of technological change, others as the product of state policy, and others as the result of the growth of knowledge. There are also many debates about the consequences of globalization for the state and the state system. Scholars dispute whether it will weaken or strengthen the state. Scholars argue whether it will lead to the transcendence of the state system or is merely a resultant of the state system. We will read a number of recent works addressing globalization, its meaning, its determinants, and its consequences.

The works have been chosen not only for their substantive and analytic contribution to the literature, but also to evince different kinds of scholarship. There are works by historians and economists as well as political scientists. There are works of eminent senior scholars and books that are revised dissertations. Liberals, realists, and constructivists are all represented in the syllabus.

Course requirements: Class participation and a research paper focusing on some aspect of globalization.

The books are available at ASUCLA.

1. Charting the Evolution of the State

2. The State and the Global Economy


3. The Beliefs of Commercial Liberalism


4. The Bases of Openness


5. Global Capital


6. Globalization, the State and the State System


7. The Constructivist Retort

8. The Realist Retort


9. Interstate Bargaining and the Construction of Globalization