People, producers and states have made connections across the globe for many centuries, but over the course of the last fifty years, these connections have not only grown in quantity, but have changed in quality as well. Social life is increasingly not only linked but organized on a transnational scale. Important aspects of governance, finance, production, consumption, culture, and daily experience and identity operate across national boundaries. Even for people who never travel outside their own neighborhoods, what they are able or unable to do, what they think, and how they feel, are all increasingly affected by what is going on across the globe. This course will begin to sketch the contours of that emergent world – probing its causes and highly varied and unequal consequences across the globe and individual experiences.

Course Website: There is a Blackboard Vista site for this course. This site includes a link to online course reserves, a copy of the syllabus, and a site for posting thought pieces.

Readings: Readings for this course are available online. They may be accessed through the course Blackboard site or directly from the O’Neill library course reserves website. In addition, the two books listed below are on sale at the BC Bookstore. These will also be available on two hour reserve at O’Neill.


Requirements:
1. Consistent attendance in class.
2. Active, serious and respectful participation in class and small group discussions.
3. Thorough reading of course materials, including note-taking and/or response writing to be referenced in class discussion.
4. On-time, thoughtful completion of all assignments.
5. Strict adherence to campus policies regarding plagiarism and intellectual integrity.
Assessments:
1. Class attendance and participation. 5% final grade
2. 6 thought pieces. 20% final grade
3. Midterm paper (5-6 pages). 25% final grade
4. Final paper (6-7 pages). 30% final grade
5. Final exam. 20% final grade

Thought pieces: This class deals with complex ideas that require regular completion of the readings and regular lecture attendance. To help you actively process the readings and relate them to the world around you, you are required to write six 400-500 word thought-pieces over the course of the semester (see below for due dates and course website for specific prompts). These writings should respond to posted questions and deal explicitly with the readings they reference. They can be informal or unconventional in style, but thoughtless, cursory or late pieces will not receive credit. Thought-pieces should be posted on the Blackboard website in the Assignments section. These pieces will be graded on a 4-point scale and together will make up 20% of your final grade.

Class attendance is mandatory. Since I don’t want to waste too much time taking attendance, I will not take roll every day. Instead, I will take attendance at random intervals during the semester. If you are not there for one of those classes, you will not be penalized, but after that, unexcused absences will impact your final grade.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to comply with the standards for academic honesty outlined by the University’s Academic Policies and Procedures at http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy.html#integrity. Any plagiarism or cheating – including on thought pieces – will result at a minimum in an F on that piece of work and possibly in notification of the academic dean.

Course Schedule

Sept. 8:
Introduction

Section I. The emergence of modernity:
Sept 10:


Sept. 15
Sept. 17:

Sept. 22:


Sept. 24:


** Post thought piece #1 by Sept. 23, 11 pm.

**Section II: Blurring boundaries and shifting scales:**
Sept. 29


Oct. 1:

Oct. 6:


** Post thought piece #2 by Oct. 5, 11 pm.**
Section III: New forms of governance:
Oct. 8:


Oct. 13:

MIDTERM PAPERS DUE OCTOBER 14, 1 PM IN MCGUINN 409.

Section IV: Global governance and food:
Oct. 15:
Understanding the WTO:


Oct 20:

Oct 22:


** Post thought piece #3 by Oct. 21, 11 pm.

Section V: Transnational production:
Oct.27:


Oct. 29:


**Section VI: Transnational reproduction:**

**Nov. 3:**


**Nov. 5:**

**Post thought piece #4 by Nov. 4, 11 pm.**

**Section VII: Transnational subjects:**

**Nov. 10:**


**Nov. 12:**
Peggy Levitt, *The Transnational Villagers* (University of California, 2001). **Pp. 31-69.**

**Nov. 17:**
Peggy Levitt, *The Transnational Villagers* (University of California, 2001). **Pp. 73-124.**

**Nov. 19:**

**Post thought piece #5 by Nov. 18, 11 pm.**

**Section VIII: Transnational cultures:**

**Nov. 24:**


5
Dec. 1:


Dec. 3:

** Post thought piece #6 by Dec. 2, 11 pm.**

Dec. 8:
Concluding discussion and review.

Dec. 10:
IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM

**FINAL PAPER DUE TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 1 PM, IN MCGUINN 409.**