What are the forces of globalization shaping our world (for better or for worse)? How can we bring an historical perspective to bear on them? How might we conceptualize a new sub-field of history—global history—and distinguish it from more traditional historical and world historical approaches? When did the forces that we associate with globalization become apparent, and how have these forces evolved since then to shape the contemporary world? Are we, in fact, entering a global epoch? This course is an inquiry into such questions, and into the materials relating to them, dealing specifically with transnational factors such as the step into space, satellite communications, the multinational corporations, migrations, environmental issues, international relations, and human rights; and with topics such as global culture, consumerism, and cities.

The course will invite student presentation of research on particular topics.

**Course Mechanics**

**Writing**

Either 3 papers of ca. 7-8 pp., or a research paper, 25-30 pp., will be required, on topics mutually agreed upon by student and instructor. (All papers are due on December 14, 2001.)

**Readings**

William J. Mitchell, *City of Bits*
(These books may be purchased at the Coop; copies have been put on reserve at Lamont Library.)

Other readings are to be found in the Binder (at Lamont).

**Topics and Reading Assignments**

September 18. *Organizational Meeting: Introduction to New Global History*
September 25. **Concepts and General Literature on New Global History.**

**Read:**
2. William A. Green, “Periodizing World History,” in *World History*, ed. Pomper, Elphick and Vann, pp. 53-65, and *Conceptualizing Global History*, 1-24 (Introduction); 27-44 (Ch. 1); 47-69 (Ch. 2); and 71-91 (Ch. 3).
3. Michael Geyer and Charles Bright, “World History in a Global Age,” *The American Historical Review*, vol. 100, No. 4 (October 1995), 1034-1060. (Both this article and CGH have extensive bibliographies.)

October 2. **Global-Local Relations**

**Read:**
2. Roland Robertson, *Globalization*, 1-7 (Prologue), 49-60 (Mapping the Global Condition), and 85-96 (Japanese Globality and Japanese Religion).

October 9. **Space and Time.**

**Read:**

October 16. **The Information Revolution.**

**Read:**
2. Discussion will also include reference to his other book, *The Power of Identity*.

Oct. 23. **Multinational Corporations.**

**Read:**

October 30. **NGOs.**
Read: (1) Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, Activities Beyond Borders, 1-198.  
(3) Held, Global Transformations, pp. 52-58.

November 6.  Nationalism and Internationalism

November 13.  Migrations

November 20.  Global Culture

November 27.  Consumerism
Read: (1) Cissy Fairchilds, “Consumption in Early Modern Europe,” CSSH (1993), 850-858.  
(2) Daniel Miller, Acknowledging Consumerism, 1-57.  
(3) Appadurai, Modernity, 66-85.  

Read: (1) William J. Mitchell, City of Bits, 3-173.  

December 11.  Syntheses and Conclusions
Read: (1) Ulrich Beck, “From Industrial Society to the Risk Society,” Theory Culture and Society, 9, 1 (February 1992), 97-123.  
(3) Anthony Giddens, The Consequences of Modernity, 63-78.