What is “Globalization”?
Globalization is a historical process of the last few hundred years involving:
- Pillars: market capitalism, Western ideologies, discoveries/inventions/new technologies
- the widening, deepening, and speeding up of worldwide interconnectedness & dependency
- a social and political process involving various actors and institutions that shape ‘worldviews’, opinions, identities, cultures through conquest, exchange, interpenetration, transplantation, dissemination
- a geographical process with centers (Global Cities), empty spaces (3rd World) as well as full ones (1st W)
- global flows of goods-services-capital-people-diseases-ideas-customs-values. Examples: oil, weapons, drugs, Coca Cola, world music, movies, refugees, AIDS….

Technological Globalization: Time-Space Convergence

Transportation & Travel:
- cars, shipping, railroad, air …

Communication & Information:
- telegraph, telephone, fax, email, web, satellite, cable, laser, fiber-optic…

Destructive Technologies:
- weapons of mass destruction, missiles, landmines, terrorist “technologies”…

Environmental Globalization
- Global climate change (air, water, soil):
  - Greenhouse gases /global warming (Kyoto Protocols), acid rain, ozone hole…
  - Global pollution and waste
- Genetic engineering and its effects on humans, animals, plants
- Sustainable alternatives: conservation, reduction, awareness, protest….

Political Globalization
- Multi-national organizations: United Nations
- Multi-lateral agencies: IMF, World Bank
- International regulatory bodies: WTO
- International judicial organizations: ICC
- Trans-national agreements: NAFTA
- Multi-national political unions: EU
- Multi-national military structures: NATO
- Non-Governmental Orgs (Greenpeace)
- Transnational Corporations (McDonald,GM)
- Global Protest Movements (anti-War, Seattle)

Critics of Globalization
- historically not new: already in 19th century
- not universal: large territories & populations are more or less excluded
- uni-directional: from North to South/West to East, hegemonic, imperialistic, undemocratic…
- uneven distribution of effects, benefits & costs
- disintegrative tendencies: wars, ethnic conflicts, religious fundamentalism, global protest movements, global terrorism….

Is Globalization Good or Bad?
- Political: weakens authoritarian governments b/c of external info flow
- Economic: Jobs, capital, more consumer choices, spread of medical technology
- Cultural: Exposure to other cultures
- Political: Unwanted external influence, difficult to keep out (illegal drugs)
- Economic: Exploitative, benefits a few, inequality gap between rich and poor
- Cultural: imperialism, English language dominance, local traditions, moral values

Evaluation of Globalization depends on perspective
- 1. Self-interest
- 2. National interest
- 3. Religious/Ethical/Ideological views
- 4. Global humanitarian perspective
- 5. Historical survival viewpoint of socio- and bio-sphere
  EXAMPLES: Global free trade
  Global warming

Open Questions about Globalization
- Causes and effects of globalization on individual, local, national & global socio/bio-sphere
- Links, interdependencies and cycles: Poverty-disease-migration-economic collapse-ethnic conflicts/wars-human rights violations/terrorism-more poverty…. 
- Remedies to counter adverse effects of globalization:
  - education/awareness/global protest movement
  - development aid/investment/trade...
  - UN resolutions/sanctions/humanitarian intervention/regime change…