This course addresses intersections between the cultures of screen media (film, television, video, digital) and the dynamics of cultural globalization. Globalization, in its most general sense, has been said to refer to both the compression of the world and the intensification of consciousness of the world as a whole. The production, circulation, reception, and use of screen media have played a significant role in debates surrounding the both the awareness of and implications for global processes. Look through any popular or academic publication and you will encounter an overwhelming range of explanations for how local or global film and media cultures are made, to what effects they circulate, and the means through which their representations and identities are produced.

This course will thus provide you with a set of frameworks for understanding and questioning the terms through which screen media have been produced in relation to particular processes of globalization. For some, such media have been central platforms for the production of an increasingly interconnected “global village.” For others, screen media have been a means for challenging the unequal power dynamics of globalization. For others, they have merely reflected the inequities of global processes. We will explore case studies in screen media from across the globe, including Europe, East and South Asia, West Africa, Central and North America.