At least since the 17th century the European world has categorized its global relations with a fundamental divide between “us” and “them.” The names have changed for this categorization; some of them are: Empire and Colony; First, Second and Third Worlds; North and South; Industrialized and Emerging. This course will look at these ways of categorizing international relations, and the people they involve, from the non-European perspective – from the perspective of the colonies, the Third World, the South…

We will address three broad themes through the semester: (1) defining these concepts, and their differences and commonalities; (2) national identity; and (3) the impact of these abstract concepts on the lives of individuals. We will consider both theoretical issues and look at specific examples, using the experiences of Brazil, Peru, Nigeria, and occasionally other countries. Throughout we will focus both on the relationship of “the South” to “the North” and the perspectives which have arisen from within “the South.” The course will bring our thinking about “globalization” to the present, to consider the impact of some major current events on this concept.

Class sessions will include lectures, discussions, and visual materials. The readings and lectures for this course draw upon a very wide diversity of sources. Because the topic of the course covers a very long time period and large geography we will investigate selective themes in a variety of settings.