Week #1 Text: pages 1-46.

Study Questions/Exercises:

1. "Globalization" of the world economy involves aspects of ownership and control and aspects of "flow" or "movement." Can you think of examples of each notion?

2. Foreign Direct Investment; can you define it in your own words? Are you aware of any examples from your own experiences? (Same for Import Substitution or Multinational Corporations?)

3. "Globalization of Tertiary Sector"; see pages 80-81 for clarification of "tertiary sector".

4. Drawing upon your own life-space and experience can you describe a spatial core and spatial periphery?

5. Take the 4 questions on page 33 and contemplate them at different scales, different from the "global."

Commentary on the first weeks readings:

The first part of Chapter 1 (1-25 approx.) emphasizes the Global too much for my personal liking. By that I don't mean the global is not important, for clearly it is. My sense is that it is not personal enough and that it caters to the gee-whiz, front-page kind of popular issues. It's the authors trying to get your attention. This evaluation persists for pretty much the whole chapter; the authors seem more concerned with placing the course in the context of the news. My personal view is that Economic Geography can get your attention because it is of relevance to you and your life. This can actually be a good first exposure to the notion of scale; the text is introducing issues with which economic geography is concerned at the macro scale; in class I use many scales and try to bring in the more micro-level concerns.

The core/periphery model introduced on page 25 is the first geographic model in the book. It is expressly geographic because it is driven by where things are; how influence is exerted over space. You'll see more of it later. But, the book does a quick jump to introduce development and disparity. Then on page 33 the authors introduce 4 questions that are not inherently "global," but that do help introduce the underlying processes of Economic Geography.

The last section, "The Geographic Perspective" (page 41+) is pretty critical for our use; you should pay particular attention to understanding the terms and concepts in this section. If you have trouble figuring it out ask questions!!