In 2001, an investment bank report listed Brazil, Russia, India, and China (the BRICs) as countries with substantial and attractive domestic markets. In 2009, the leaders of the four countries met together at the first BRICs summit. In 2011, South Africa joined the group. But what exactly did South Africa join? Why was it qualified for membership but South Korea, Mexico, or Nigeria were not considered? What do the five countries have in common, if anything? Will they emerge as a new and important voice in global affairs? Why are they growing, when much of the developed world is stagnating? Is that growth sustainable? Have political risk factors been dealt with appropriately?

This course is a study in political and economic reforms which focuses on the five countries included in the BRICS. The first part of the course addresses how the BRICS were composed and chosen, and examines political economic issues in each of the countries. The second part of the course aims to map out a space for the foreign policy of the BRICS within regional, global, and multilateral space.

This class is highly interactive and requires active participation. Each week you will respond to questions that I ask about the readings for that week. These responses should be five hundred to six hundred fifty words in length. Roughly half of these weekly papers will be given directly to me for grading. You will give the other half to your peers (see below for more instructions) to get comments for the other half. The following week you will hand me the original copy of your weekly paper with comments from your peer, and the paper due for that week. These weekly papers will account for twenty percent of your grade.

During the second part of the class (Foreign Policy, Regional, and Global Governance), you will be responsible for selecting a topic, readings, and analytical questions for the class. Each presentation should be roughly twenty minutes.

The balance of your grade will come from participation (twenty percent) and your final paper of 18-20 pages (forty percent).

Readings


**Week I**

**the BRICS as a CATEGORY**

**Analytical Question 1:** *Are the BRICS are real category? Is there any country that does not truly belong?*

Leslie Elliott Armijo. "The BRICs Countries (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) As Analytical Category: Mirage or Insight?." *Asian Perspective*. 2007.31 (4). pg. 7, 37 pgs


**Week II**

**Credibility, Legitimacy, State, Regime, Policies**

**Analytical Question 2:** *How should credibility be conceived?--give this assignment to a peer in the class and ask him or her, on a separate paper, to respond to the following questions: How did the author address the question posed? What did the author do effectively? How could the argument be improved?*


Credibility


Central Banks


Week III Case Workshop

Analytical Question 3: What sort of cases do the Riveras use to make their argument? Suggest an alternative means of case selection which would strengthen their argument (also submit analytical paper #2 with your peer’s comments)


Lichbach and Zuckerman. Chapters 1-4, 10

Jason Seawright; John Gerring "Case Selection Techniques in Case Study Research: A Menu of Qualitative and Quantitative Options." *Political Research Quarterly*; Jun 2008; 61, 2; pg. 294


Week IV Brazil

Analytical Question 3: *How Did Macro and Micro-Economic Policy-making in Brazil become Credible?* - give this assignment to a peer in the class and ask him or her, on a separate paper, to respond to the following questions: How did the author address the question posed? What did the author do effectively? How could the argument be improved?

Fishlow-


Week V India
Analytical Question 4: What sort of reforms has been credible in India? (also submit analytical paper #4 with your peer's comments)

Ruparelia et al
Sinha, Aseema. “Global Linkages and Domestic Politics: Trade Reform and Institution Building in India in Comparative Perspective.” Comparative Political Studies. 40 (10). P. 1183-1210.
Week VI  Writing Workshop

Week VII  South Africa
Analytical Question 5: Why did perception of Mbeki change so radically? Was the Truth and Reconciliation Commission successful? - give this assignment to a peer in the class and ask him or her, on a separate paper, to respond to the following questions: How did the author address the question posed? What did the author do effectively? How could the argument be improved?

Sparks-


Week VIII  Russia
Analytical Question 6: Do Russians support the political regime that has developed in the past decade? Just what regime is that? (also submit analytical paper #5 with your peer’s comments)

Sakwa-

Week IX  China
Analytical Question 7: Are the Chinese government’s anti-corruption efforts credible? give this assignment to a peer in the class and ask him or her, on a separate paper, to respond to the following questions: How did the author address the question posed? What did the author do effectively? How could the argument be improved?

Gries and Rosen-


Weeks X-XIIV Foreign Policy, Regional and Global Governance
Analytical Questions: Chosen by seminar leaders


SPECIAL ISSUE of *World Politics* devoted to Unipolarity *World Politics* 61 (1). January 2009.


Li Chapters 15-16