Welcome to "Rising Powers in World Politics"!! We are in the middle of an unprecedented shift in wealth and power away from the West and towards the countries of the developing world. How will this dramatic shift in power affect international relations? Are we headed towards an era of increased instability and great power conflict? Or will the rise of the developing world increase economic equality and political representation at the level of global politics?

This class will explore these and other questions through the lens of international relations theory. We will focus on the five major rising powers: Brazil, Russia, India China (colloquially known as the BRICS), looking at the domestic and international factors that are behind their rise and the impact they have had on major areas of international politics. We will also look at the approaches they take to major 21st Century policy questions, such as terrorism, economic development, climate change, and reform to international financial institutions after the latest economic crisis.

Course requirements and grading:

Participation and attendance: 30%

This course requires not only attendance but active participation. In addition we will have three classes devoted to in-class activities (one structured debate and two scenario games) that will require students’ active engagement.

Each student will be evaluated on their performance in these activities and this will constitutes 50% of their participation grade for the course.

In Class Pop Quizzes: 20%

Over the course of the semester there will be 5 short in-class quizzes that will take no more than 10 minutes each. These will be “pop” quizzes in that they will not be announced beforehand. The quizzes will test whether or not you have been doing the reading and the questions will be relatively easy to answer if you have bene keeping up with readings. I will average the best 4 scores out of the 5 quizzes in determining your quiz grade.

Research Paper: 40 %

A 15-20 page research paper touching on the themes and topics of the course. This is an original piece of research that should incorporate sources outside of the materials which are directly covered. The student is expected to work with the professor to produce a quality piece of academic work. We will also talk about topics and research methods during the course of the semester.

Research Paper proposal: 10%

A one page proposal (around 500 words) outlining the topic of your research paper and the major theoretical or substantive issues you will examine in the research paper. This will allow the professor to
measure the progress and development, as well as provide feedback and support on the work being produced in the independent study.

**Readings:**

Readings are in electronic format and will be distributed to students either by email or through an internet drop box.

In addition to the assigned readings, here are a couple of useful websites that can help you keep an eye on international events.

1) The Financial Times' Beyond BRICS blog provides a great source of info on the latest developments in emerging markets.


   (You need to register for the Blog but it is free).

2) Foreign Policy's website also gives a nice view into how US elite's and policy makers are thinking about the latest developments.


   I particularly recommend Steve Walt's Blog:

   [http://www.foreignpolicy.com/voices/walt](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/voices/walt)

**Part 1:, Week 1 - The Decline of the West and the Rise of the Rest? . Major Power Transitions in the International System**

In this section, we will look at the major theoretical approaches to the study of power transition in the international system and look at some prominent scholars’ predictions about the future.

Charles Kuphan, "Nobody's World", Chapter 4 : "The Next Turn: The Rise of the Rest"


**Recommended:**


II. Getting to Know the BRICS – Domestic Politics and Global Ambitions

We will take a closer look at the individual BRICS, their experiences with economic and political development, the factors behind their rise, and their expanding role in regional and global politics.

**Week 2: China: The Next Hegemon?**


Recommended:


Susan Shirk, *China: Fragile Superpower* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), Ch1


**Week 3: Organized In Class Debate: Will China be the next superpower?**

**Week 4: Russia: Fallen Super Power and/or Re-emerging Great Power?**


Recommended:

Dmitri Trenin, “Russia’s Breakout From the Post-Cold War System: The Drivers of Putin's Course”


**Week 5: India: The Other “Asian Rising Power”**


“India has every chance to outstrip China if it tries”, *Financial Times*, January 16, 2014.

Recommended:

Gucharan Das, “The India Model,” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 85, no. 4 (July-August 2006)

Stephen B. Cohen, *India: Emerging Power*, Chapter 4
**Week 6: Brazil: New Power in the Western Hemisphere**

Joao Augusto De Castro Neves, "Brazil as an Emerging Power in the 21st Century" in Nadkarni and Noonan

Larry Rohter, Brazil on the Rise; “The Story of a Country Transformed”, Ch 6 and 7

Optional:

Leslie Elliott Armijo and Sean W. Burges, “Brazil, the Entrepreneurial and Democratic BRIC”, *Polity* Volume 42, Number 1 . January 2010


**Week 7: In Class Scenario Game – Crisis in Eurasia**

**Part III. The BRICS’ Impact on Major International Issues:**

In this section we will look at the impact the BRICS are having on major issue areas and on the ways that they are adjusting to the challenges of globalization.

**Week 8: Security**


Avery Goldstein, “China’s Real and Present Danger”, *Foreign Affairs* (September 2013/October 2013)


Recommended:


**Week 9: Economics and the Environment**

Ruchin Sharma, "Broken BRICS: Why the Rest Stopped Rising", *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2012


Carl Dahlman, “The World Under Pressure”, pg 154-182

Recommended:


Ian Bremmer, “Every Nation For Itself: Winners and Losers in a G-Zero World”, Ch 1
Joshua Cooper Ramo, “The Beijing Consensus”

**Week 10: Democracy, Human Rights and Soft Power**


Recommended:


**Week 11: In Class Scenario: World Financial Crisis Redux**

**Week 12: Beyond BRICS**

While the BRICS have garnered most of our attention, other developing countries are also rising to geopolitical prominence -- some because of their strengths and others because of their weakness. In the concluding section we will take a look at a few of these and examine the impact that they are having on regional and global politics.


“South Africa: Where will the rainbow end?”, Economist, May 3, 2014