The Rise of the BRICs and the Global Economy

SESSIONS: 12

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OBJECTIVES & DESCRIPTION

Why have some developing countries grown richer whereas others got poorer? What does the rise of countries like China mean for the economic fortunes of high-income countries from Europe and North America? The course addresses these questions through a tour de force of developmental successes and disasters in Eastern Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa. At the end, students will have a sophisticated take on what's the track record of various economic development strategies in the Global South and will be able to critically assess their importance in a globalized world.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The final grade is to be determined on the basis of the following criteria:

1. **Seminar participation** (20% of the final grade). Since this is a seminar, your thoughtful participation in class is critical for the course’s success. Please complete all readings and attend all seminars.

2. **Midterm paper** (30% of the final grade). You will write an essay of 6 double-spaced pages mapping out a specific economic policy area (macroeconomic policy, trade, taxation, etc.) across the four states during the past two decades. This is an analytical, not descriptive exercise so please be sure to start with a structured analytical framework in consultation with the professor. Late papers will receive penalties of 10% of the grade per day, including weekends.

3. **Final paper** (50% of the final grade). Building off the midterm paper, write a 10 page double-spaced policy memorandum on a policy question relevant for contemporary discussions about the BRICs. The question has to be finalized by the middle of the course, in consultation with the instructor.

Books


**Work and Ethics**

You are responsible to know Boston University’s Academic Conduct Code. Link: http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/

**PROGRAM**

**SESSION I**

**Introduction**


Armijo, Leslie Elliott. 2007. The BRICs Countries (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) as Analytic Category: Mirage or Insight? *Asian Perspective* 31(4): 7-42.


*Recommended:*


**SESSION 2**

**BRICS and Beyond**


SESSIONS 3

**Development Choices in China**


Huang, Philip CC. "‘State Capitalism’ or ‘Socialist Market Economy’? *China* 38.6 (2012): 587-590 (read the entire special issue).


SESSION 4

**Development Choices in Russia**


SESSION 5

**Development choices in Emerging East-Central Europe**


SESSION 6

**Development Choices in Emerging Latin America**


SESSION 7

**Development Choices in Emerging Africa**


SESSION 8

**Development Choices in India**


SESSION 9

**The BRICs and the Rich Core (1)**


SESSION 10

**The BRICs and the Rich Core (2)**


SESSION 11

**The BRICs and Lesser Developed Countries**


SESSION 12

Wrap-up