INTRODUCTION: By some accounts, Brazil, Russia, India and China will be the dominant economies in the world by 2050. We study the economic trajectories of these countries from roughly 1900, emphasizing the roles of domestic reforms and interactions with global markets in the period since 1960 in spurring human capital accumulation, industrial development, and economic growth. We examine the potential limits on stability and growth in the BRICs and the influence these countries are likely to exert on the global governance of trade, aid, finance, and the environment. No prerequisites.

NOTE: This FYS counts towards an Economics major, but students must still take ECON 001 to qualify for further work in the Economics Department.

OBJECTIVES: Facility reading and writing in the social sciences; knowledge of the contemporary economic histories of the BRICS; an understanding of basic growth theory, growth accounting, the collective action problem, the political economy of economic reform, and the roles of global economic institutions.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Books not available on ebrary via Tripod are in the bookstore. Additional required readings will be on the Moodle site.

COURSE POLICIES:
Attendance: Attendance and participation are required; this is a seminar, where we all depend on each other.
Assignments: You are responsible for doing assigned readings before they are discussed in the seminar. There will be a sequence of short written assignments totaling 15-20 pages over the course of the semester, at least one of which will be presented to the seminar for discussion. There will be an in-class midterm exam.
Grading: Class participation and presentations 25%, midterm exam 30%, written assignments 45%.
Make-up exams: Scheduling conflicts must be worked out in advance. Any make-up granted within a week of the exam requires an emergency or medical excuse certified by the Dean’s office or Worth Health Center.
Late term papers: Your grade on required assignments drops by 1/3 of a grade if the assignment is late, and by an additional 1/3 of a grade for every additional 2 days it is late.
Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as passing off the work of others as your own. It is a very serious form of academic misconduct. It is easy to avoid, not by ignoring the work of others but by citing it whenever you use it. For instructions on avoiding plagiarism see *Referencing Source Material and Avoiding Plagiarism in Economics* under the ‘Classes’ link on my web page.
Weekly syllabus
[NOTE: Assignments will be described separately]

Required readings are marked [*]; those outside of the required texts will be available on the moodle site [m] or via the indicated links. Readings in small font, listed at the end of some weeks, are optional supplementary materials and will not necessarily be readily available.

Week 1 [Sept 4 and 6] Introduction
Tuesday: The BRICs
Thursday: Primary education: globally, and historically in the BRICs
*Chaudhury, Latika, Aldo Musacchio, Steven Nafziger, and Se Yan (2011), “Big BRICs, Weak Foundations: The Beginning of Public Elementary Education in Brazil, Russia, India and China, 1880-1930” [m] Note: skim this paper with a focus on the historical context.

Week 2 [Sept 11 and 13] Economic growth
Tuesday: Accounting for growth.
-writing assignment #1 due in class
Thursday: Explaining growth
*Jones, Charles, Introduction to Economic Growth, chapter 7: Infrastructure and Long-Run Economic Performance [m]

Week 3 [Sept 18 and 20] The collective action problem
Tuesday: Olson’s theory of autocracy
*Olson (2000), Power and Prosperity, Preface and chapters 1-2
Thursday: The logic and limitations of collective action
*Olson (2000), Power and Prosperity, chapters 3-6.

Week 4 [Sept 25 and 27] Power and prosperity
Tuesday: Olson on the Soviet Union
*Olson (2000), chapters 7-9
Thursday: The theory applied to emerging-market economies
*Olson (2000), chapter 10


Week 5 [Oct 2 and 4] Russia – 1
Tuesday: Backwardness and the state.
-writing assignment #2 due in class
*Gerschenkron, Alexander “Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective” [m]
*Gerschenkron, Alexander “Russia: Patterns and Problems of Economic Development, 1861-1958” [m] [both of these readings are in his (1962) Economic Backwardness in Historical Perspective. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University.]


Thursday: The capitalist revolution in Russia
Assignment #3: Student Presentations (continued Tuesday of week 6)

Week 6 [Oct 9 and 11] Russia – 2
*Tuesday: The capitalist revolution in Russia (cont’d)*

Assignment #3, cont’d: Student Presentations

Thursday: China: Historical background and the socialist period 1949-78


FALL BREAK, week of October 15

Week 7 [Oct 23 and 25] China – 1

*Thursday:
Theurs October 25: MIDTERM EXAM, in class, covering weeks 1-6.


Week 8 [Oct 30 and Nov 1] China – 2
*Tuesday: Learning from reform
*Rawski, Thomas (1999), Reforming China’s Economy: What Have We Learned?*” *The China Journal* 41, January: 140-156 [m]

*Thursday:
Theurs Nov 1: 1-paragraph term paper proposal due in class.
*Subramanian, Arvind (2011), The Inevitable Superpower: Why China’s Dominance is a Sure Thing *Foreign Affairs* 90(5), September/October: 66-78 [m]
*http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/68205/arvind-subramanian/the-inevitable-superpower*
*http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/68207/salvatore-babones/the-middling-kingdom*

Week 9 [Nov 6 and 8] India – 1
Tuesday:

Thursday:


Week 10 [Nov 13 and 15] India – 2
⇒ Tues Nov 13: Outline and annotated bibliography due in class.
Tuesday and Thursday:

Week 11 [Nov 20 and day TBA] Brazil – 1
*We will try to reschedule the Thanksgiving day meeting to Saturday, Sunday or Monday Nov 17, 18 or 19, to avoid the tacked-on day in week 14.

Tuesday:
*Skidmore, Thomas E., Peter H. Smith and James N. Green (2010) “Brazil: The Awakening Giant” in Modern Latin America New York: Oxford University Press: 306-348 [m] (skim this for the historical context; focus most on Vargas and subsequent administrations starting in the 1930s)

Thursday:
*Roett, chapters 6-end.

Week 12 [Nov 27 and 29] Brazil – 2
⇒ by Tues Nov 27 (optional): Take your draft in to be WAed.
Tuesday:

Thursday: South Africa

Week 13 [Dec 4 and 6] Student term paper presentations
⇒ Thurs Dec 6: Term paper due in class.

Subject to revision. This version September 14, 2012