“**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 the global balance of 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, examining how different configurations of power affect the stability of the international system. Empirically, we will focus on four major rising powers: Brazil, Russia, India and China and South Africa (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 global governance problems, such as terrorism, economic development, climate change, and reform of the international financial system.