

**THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STUDIES**  
**CAMBRIDGE**

**A COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY of the BRICS**

This course will provide a set of eleven lectures on the comparative analysis of the BRICS countries and their relationship to advanced income economies as well as to other emerging economies. The aim of the lecture series is not to provide comprehensive country reports but aim to identify connections between countries on a range of different sets of issues. The initial lectures will provide an examination of the concepts behind the BRICS, and how these relate to notions of emerging economies.

The lectures will then move on to a discussion of economic performance of BRICS themselves and differences within these countries in relation to terms of histories, cultures, and politics of the nation state. There will be a focus on a range of economic and development features where the particularities of state policy and economic orientation affect macroeconomic policy as well as poverty and social justice issues.

**LECTURES**

- Lecture 1: Overview, framework, key parameters and issues from a comparative analysis of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- Lecture 2: The concept behind BRICS.
- Lecture 3: BRICS – a comparative assessment of economic performance.
- Lecture 4: BRICS – a comparative assessment of social development- education, health and gender equality.
- Lecture 5: BRICS - a comparative assessment of environmental responsibility, the ‘green economy’ and sustainability [Anand, Comim and Tim Scott].
- Lecture 6: BRICS and the international trade and financial architecture - namely, G20, WTO, WB, IMF, and OECD.
- Lecture 7 : Country vision, development pathways and challenges.
- Lecture 8: The role of state in macro-economic management.
- Lecture 9: Poverty, inequality, and social justice.
- Lecture 10: Energy, natural resources and sustainability.
- Lecture 11: Innovation, science, technology and knowledge economy.

## **READINGS**

- O'Neill, J., 2013      *Economic Opportunity in the BRICS and Beyond*
- Evans, P., 1995      *Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation*
- Nolan, P., 2013      *Is China Buying the World?*
- Kohli, A., 2004.      *State Directed Development: Political Power and Industrialisation in the Global Periphery*
- Sharma, R., 2012      *Breakout Nations: In Pursuit of the Next Economic Miracles*
- Hobsbawm, E., 1995 *The Age of Extremes: The short twentieth century, 1914-1991*
- Mawdsley, E., 2012. *From Recipients to Donors: Emerging Powers and Changing Development Landscapes.*

## **METHOD OF ASSESSMENT**

Weekly Readings  
Class Discussion  
A minimum of two out of three 2500 word essays