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**Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution for Higher Education
PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA
NAMED AFTER PATRICE LUMUMBA
(RUDN University)**

Department of National Economy

COURSE SYLLABUS

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AMONG BRICS NATIONS

Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:

38.04.01 «Economy»

**The course instruction is implemented within the professional education
programme of higher education**

«International Business»

1. THE COURSE GOALS

The course aims to engage with theoretical frameworks of regional integration in BRICS, evaluate the structural complementarities and asymmetries in trade and investment, and assess the viability of institutional and monetary cooperation among BRICS countries.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Mastering the course "Economic Integration Among BRICS Nations" is aimed at developing the following competencies (parts of competencies):

Table 2.1. The list of competencies formed by students in the mastering the COURSE

Competence code	Competence	Competence achievement indicators (within this course)
GC-1.	Able to carry out a critical analysis of problem situations based on a systematic approach, to develop a strategy of actions.	GC-1.1. Analyzes the task, pointing out its basic components; GC-1.2. Determines and ranks the information required to solve the task; GC-1.3. Searches for information to solve the task by various types of queries; GC-1.4. Offers solutions to the problem, analyzes the possible consequences of their use; GC-1.5. Analyzes the ways of solving problems of ideological, moral and personal character based on the use of basic philosophical ideas and categories in their historical development and socio-cultural context.
PC-1.	Able to analyze and forecast the main socio-economic indicators of the enterprise, industry, region and the economy as a whole	PC 1.1. Able to prepare analytical materials for the evaluation of economic policy measures and strategic decision-making at the micro and macro levels; PC 1.2. Able to analyze and use various sources of information for economic calculations PC 1.3. Able to make a forecast of the main socio-economic indicators of the enterprise, industry, region and the economy as a whole;
PC-3.	Able to independently carry out research activities and critically evaluate the results obtained	PC-3.1 Able to generalize and critically evaluate the results obtained by domestic and foreign researchers, identify promising areas, and draw up a research program; PC-3.2 Able to substantiate the relevance, theoretical and practical significance of the chosen topic of scientific research; PC-3.3 Able to conduct independent research in accordance with the developed program and present the results to the scientific community in the form of an article or report

3. COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The Course “Economic Integration Among BRICS Nations” refers to the Optional Disciplines formed by the participants in the educational relations of the block Higher Education Programme Structure

As part of the Higher Education Programme Structure, students also master other disciplines and / or practices that contribute to the achievement of the planned results of mastering the Course "Economic Integration Among BRICS Nations".

Table 3.1. The list of components of the Higher Education Program Structure that contribute to the achievement of the planned results of mastering the Course

Competence code	Competence	Previous Disciplines (Modules) *	Subsequent Disciplines (Modules)*
GC-1.	Able to carry out a critical analysis of problem situations based on a systematic approach, to develop a strategy of actions.	International trade Corporate innovation policy	Management of sustainable business development
PC-1.	Able to analyze and forecast the main socio-economic indicators of the enterprise, industry, region and the economy as a whole	Business' evaluation and company's cost management	Corporate governance Corporate Security Doing business in Russia
PC-3.	Able to independently carry out research activities and critically evaluate the results obtained	Business' evaluation and company's cost management	Corporate governance Corporate Security Doing business in Russia

* - filled in in accordance with the matrix of competencies

4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Course Workload and Academic Activities 5 credits, including 2 credits for the course work

Table 4.1. Types of academic activities during the period of the HE program(me) mastering

Types of academic activities during the period of the HE programmastering	Course workload, academic hours	Semesters			
		1	2	3	4
<i>Contact academic hours</i>	54			54	
lectures	18			18	
Seminars	36			36	
Course work	72			72	
<i>Self-study, academic hours</i>	36			36	
<i>Evaluation and assessment</i>	18			18	

Types of academic activities during the period of the HE programmastering		Course workload, academic hours	Semesters			
			1	2	3	4
Course workload	academic hours	180			180	
	credits	6			6	

5. COURSE CONTENTS

Table 5.1. The content of the course (module) by type of educational work

Name of the course module	Topic title	Content of the topic	Types of academic activities
Module 1. Theoretical Frameworks and Foundations of Integration	Topic 1.1. Theories of Economic Integration Applied to BRICS	Traditional integration theory versus BRICS heterogeneity. New regionalism and loose institutionalization. Interdependence theory as applied to asymmetric economies. Constructivist approaches to BRICS as a normative project.	Lectures, seminars
	Topic 1.2. The Evolution of Economic Integration in BRICS	Political and economic rationale for formalizing BRICS. South Africa's inclusion. Early summits and trust-building mechanisms. Evolution from investment narrative to geopolitical platform. Learning from EU and ASEAN paths of integration.	Lectures, seminars
Module 2. Trade, Investment, and Production Networks	Topic 2.1. Intra-BRICS Trade Patterns and Complementarities	Trade complementarity and competition among BRICS members. Bilateral trade agreements within BRICS. Barriers to deeper integration. Use of local currencies in trade settlement. BRICS Trade Fair and sectoral cooperation.	Lectures, seminars
	Topic 2.2. Investment Flows and Infrastructure Cooperation	Foreign direct investment patterns among BRICS members. The New Development Bank's infrastructure portfolio. Public-private partnerships in cross-border transport corridors. Belt and Road Initiative within the BRICS framework. Investment protection dispute resolution and bilateral investment treaties.	Lectures, seminars
Module 3. Financial and Monetary Integration	Topic 3.1. Institutional Architecture and Currency Arrangements	New Development Bank. Contingent Reserve Arrangement. BRICS Business Council and Women's Business Alliance. Think tanks, academic forums, and parliamentary exchanges. Comparative institutional strength against international frameworks. Contingent Reserve	Lectures, seminars

Name of the course module	Topic title	Content of the topic	Types of academic activities
		Arrangement governance and access conditions.	
	Topic 3.2. Monetary Cooperation and De-dollarization	Cross-border banking and capital market linkages. BRICS bond markets and the NDB's local currency bonds. Payments systems integration. Financial inclusion and fintech cooperation. Currency internationalization strategies.	Lectures, seminars
Module 4. Challenges and Future Prospects of Integration	Topic 4.1. Geopolitical Frictions and Institutional Resilience	India-China border disputes and economic cooperation. Russia and BRICS as a sanctions mitigation platform. Brazil's policy autonomy and BRICS' collective commitments. South Africa's infrastructure gaps and regional leadership tensions. Institutional mechanisms for managing intra-BRICS conflict.	Lectures, seminars
	Topic 4.2. The Future of Integration	The 2023-2024 expansion. Motivations of new members. Institutional challenges. Economic weight of BRICS+. Future enlargement: partner countries, criteria, and strategic implications.	Lectures, seminars

6. CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

Table 6.1. Classroom Equipment and Technology Support Requirements

Classroom for Academic Activity Type	Classroom equipment	Specialized educational / laboratory equipment, software and materials for mastering the discipline
Lecture	Classroom, equipped with a set of specialized furniture; whiteboard; a set of devices includes portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	Laptop, projector, board, screen Software: Microsoft Windows, MS Office / Office 365, MS Teams, Chrome (latest stable release), Skype
Seminars	Classroom, equipped with a set of specialized furniture; whiteboard; a set of devices includes portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	Laptop, projector, board, screen Software: Microsoft Windows, MS Office / Office 365, MS Teams, Chrome (latest stable release), Skype
Self-studies	Classroom, equipped with a set of specialized	Laptop, projector, board,

Classroom for Academic Activity Type	Classroom equipment	Specialized educational / laboratory equipment, software and materials for mastering the discipline
	furniture; whiteboard; a set of devices includes portable multimedia projector, laptop, projection screen, stable wireless Internet connection.	screen Software: Microsoft Windows, MS Office / Office 365, MS Teams, Chrome (latest stable release), Skype

7. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED FOR COURSE STUDY

- *Main reading(sources)*

1. Erokhin, V., Gao, T., & Yu, P. (2026). *International Trade and Economic Development in BRICS: Challenges and Opportunities*. Singapore: Springer Nature. <https://link.springer.com/book/9789819588008>.
2. Zondi, S. (2022). *The Political Economy of Intra-BRICS Cooperation: Challenges and Prospects*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-97397-1>.

- *Additional (optional) reading (sources)*

1. Bastanifar, I., Khan, K.H., & Koch, H. (2025). Understanding BRICSIZATION Through an Economic Geopolitical Model. *Journal of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, and Complexity*, 11(1), 100440. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joitmc.2024.100440>.
2. Nach, M., & Ncwadi, R. (2024). BRICS Economic Integration: Prospects and Challenges. *South African Journal of International Affairs*, 31(2), 151–166. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10220461.2024.2380676>.
3. Omoigberale, O. (2025). The Expanded BRICS: A Catalyst for Global Transformation or Advocate for Incremental Change? *South African Journal of International Affairs*, 32(1–2), 51–70. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10220461.2025.2518522>.
4. Prabhakar, A.H. (2026). *The BRICS Coalition and a New Global Order*. Apple Academic Press. <https://www.appleacademicpress.com/the-brics-coalition-and-a-new-global-order-/9781779642929>.

- Electronic libraries with access for RUDN students . Databases and search engines

EBS of RUDN University and third-party EBS, to which university students have access based on concluded agreements:

- RUDN Electronic Library System - RUDN EBS <http://lib.rudn.ru/MegaPro/Web>
- ELS "University Library Online" <http://www.biblioclub.ru>
- EBS Yurayt <http://www.biblio-online.ru>
- ELS "Student Consultant" www.studentlibrary.ru
- EBS "Lan" <http://e.lanbook.com/>

2. Databases and search engines:

- Yandex search engine <https://www.yandex.ru/>
- Google search engine <https://www.google.ru/>
- abstract database SCOPUS [http://www.elsevierscience.ru/products/scopus/-](http://www.elsevierscience.ru/products/scopus/)

Educational and methodological materials for independent work of students in the development of the discipline/module:*

1. A course of lectures on the discipline "Economic Integration Among BRICS Nations".

2. Topics for independent reports

3. Essay Topics

* - all educational and methodological materials for independent work of students are placed in accordance with the current procedure on the page of the discipline in TUIS!

<https://esystem.rudn.ru/course/index.php?categoryid=833>

8. EVALUATION MATERIALS AND SCORE-RATING SYSTEM FOR ASSESSING THE LEVEL OF FORMATION OF COMPETENCES IN THE COURSE

Evaluation materials and a point-rating system* for assessing the level of competence formation (part of competences) based on the results of mastering the discipline "Economic Integration Among BRICS Nations" are presented in the Appendix to this Work Program of the discipline.

*** - OM and BRS are formed on the basis of the requirements of the relevant local normative act of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia.**

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