

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

Economics 614
Economic Development of Japan
Fall 2004
TTh 3:00-4:15

Professor Theresa Greaney
Saunders Hall 529
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Course Description: Economics 614 is designed to provide students with the analytical tools and institutional knowledge needed to go “beyond the headlines” in examining Japan’s economic development. The class will discuss various aspects of Japan’s economy in a comparative context to see in what ways Japan’s economy is or is not unique among industrialized economies and in what ways institutional differences matter for economic performance. Topics will include Japan’s international trade policies, industrial policies, industrial structure, labor and capital markets, economic growth and current economic problems. The course will be presented through a mixture of lectures, class discussion, case studies and student-led debates/discussions.

Prerequisites: Students should have completed at least an undergraduate intermediate microeconomics course. A graduate microeconomics course would be even better, but is not required.

Course Materials:

1. The Japanese Economy, by David Flath, 2000, Oxford University Press, available at the UH Bookstore.
2. Course-pack of required readings, available at EMA Campus Copies.
3. Several Case Studies, available at the UH Bookstore later in the term.
4. News articles on current topics to be passed out in class throughout the term.

Course Requirements and Evaluation Procedures:

Grades will be determined by your performance on two exams, a research paper and class participation. Plus/minus grading will be used for course grades. Please be aware that no “extra credit” assignments will be given near the end of the term to make up for missed work earlier in the term. Therefore, make sure to meet all assignment deadlines. The weights assigned to each graded component are as follows:

Exams 1 and 2: 50% of your grade

Exam 1 is scheduled for Tues., Oct. 8 and exam 2 is scheduled for Tues., Nov. 19, as shown in the class schedule below. Please arrange your schedules now so that you can attend both exam times as no alternative times will be offered except in extraordinary cases. Exams generally will consist of a mixture of identification, short answer and essay questions.

Research Paper: 30% of your grade

The writing assignment is designed to provide practice for you in developing research and writing skills needed to become a professional economist. The ability to accumulate, summarize,

analyze and evaluate large amounts of information on a given topic and effectively present your findings and recommendations in writing are important skills for any professional. Be aware that your paper will be evaluated on both what you have to say and how you say it. Please take the time to proofread your paper for spelling and grammatical errors and have a friend or writing consultant proofread your paper, too, if needed.

Paper Details: 10-15 pages, double-spaced; you may choose your topic based on your own particular interests. To get you started on this assignment, please come to see me to discuss your topic and your research questions by late Sept. I will provide more details and suggestions regarding the research paper in class. The paper is due on the last scheduled day of class, Thurs., Dec. 9, at which time you will give a very brief presentation of your research findings.

Class Participation: 20% of your grade

The ability to verbally express and defend your evaluation of an issue is another skill necessary for any professional. To work on these skills, please come to class having read and formed an opinion on the assigned materials. I expect students to be prepared to ask and answer questions on class days with a lecture format and to participate actively on days with a discussion, debate or case study format. In addition, students are required to participate in one group presentation during a scheduled class debate. Students also may volunteer for an additional presentation to boost their class participation grade. More details on these debates will be provided in class.

Students who may need special consideration because of any sort of disability should contact the KOKUA program and speak with me privately during the first two weeks of the term.

Be advised that all UH policies and procedures concerning academic honesty apply to this course. I will ask for the maximum penalty for any student caught cheating or engaging in other unethical behavior.

Reading List

Available from instructor