

THE JAPANESE ECONOMY**Econ 317**

TR 1:30-2:45

*Professor Theresa Greaney***Course Topics**

- Japan's economy – juggernaut or basket-case?
- Why has Japan's economic growth been so impressive over the last century?
- Why is Japan's economy vulnerable in the current global downturn?
- What do samurai have to do with Japanese banks?
- Why does the U.S. complain so much about Japan's trade in autos, semiconductors, etc?

**Course Description**

We'll be answering these questions and many more in this course that covers Japan's economy from the early 1600's to the present, focusing primarily on the postwar period. Students will learn about the historical foundations of Japan's postwar economic growth and about Japanese government policies that have fostered or hindered that growth. We will discuss various aspects of the Japanese economy, including international trade and industrial policies, labor markets, business organizations and relationships, and households, to see in what ways Japan's economy is similar or dissimilar to other industrialized economies.

(Prerequisites: ECON 120, 130 or 131)