Economics 317
The Japanese Economy
Fall 2014
TR 1:30-2:45pm

Professor Theresa Greaney
Saunders Hall 529
Office hrs: Mon. 1-2:30pm; Fri. 10-11:30am
Office phone: 956-7521
E-mail: greaney@hawaii.edu

Course Description: This course covers Japan’s economic organization, structure and performance 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. The objective of this course is to provide students with the tools and knowledge needed to evaluate Japan’s economic performance over time and its changing role in the world economy.

Prerequisites: Students should have completed Econ. 120 or 130.

Course Materials:
1. The Japanese Economy, 2nd edition, by David Flath, 2005, Oxford University Press. This text is available under “electronic books” through the UH library website.
2. Coursepack readings, to be posted on Laulima.
3. News articles on current topics to be distributed in class.

Student Learner Outcomes
Upon successful completion of Economics 317, students will be able to:
• explain the economic effects of Tokugawa Era and Meiji Era policies;
• explain how developments during these time periods laid a foundation for Japan’s modern economic growth;
• interpret the changing role of international trade in Japan’s economic development;
• identify and explain seemingly unique aspects of Japan’s labor markets;
• identify and explain the role of “keirestu” groups in Japan’s economic development;
• understand the role of government intervention and industrial policy in Japan’s economic development; and
• explain Japan’s slower economic growth and the various contributing factors since the early 1990s.

Course Requirements and Evaluation Procedures: Learning is not a passive process so students are expected to take an active approach to class meetings by arriving prepared to ask and answer questions, having read the assigned textbook chapter(s) and coursepack readings prior to class. Students also should read (or at least skim) a national newspaper, such as the New York Times or Wall Street Journal, every day, paying particular attention to Japan-related articles. Japan economy news also can be found online at the English language editions of Japanese newspapers such as the Asahi Shimbun, Japan Times, Nikkei, or Yomiuri Shimbun.
Grades will be determined by your performance on two exams, three problem sets and class participation. 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. Note: Plus/minus grades will be used for course grades.

Midterm exam: 25% of your grade  
Final exam: 35% of your grade  
The dates for the two exams are shown in the attached class schedule. Please arrange your schedules now so that you can attend both exam times as no alternative times will be offered except in extraordinary cases. Excuses for pre-arranged absences from exams will be accepted only in real cases of illness or non-health emergency (with appropriate verification). Exams generally will consist of a mixture of identification, short answer and essay questions.

Pecha Kucha Presentations: 20% of your grade  
In groups of 3-4 students, you will prepare and deliver a Pecha Kucha talk (20 slides x 20 seconds each) on a current economic problem facing Japan. You also will participate in evaluating other presentations. More information about these presentations will be given in class.

Problem Sets: 15% of your grade  
Problem sets based on the lectures and readings will be assigned in class several times during the term. The problem sets will give you a chance to review recent class materials and practice answering questions that may come up on the exams. Problem sets are due by the end of class on the date stated on the problem set. Late problem sets will be penalized.  
Students are encouraged to work with a study group on these problems, but each student must write up his or her answers independently. Word-for-word duplicate assignments from 2 different students are not acceptable. Please get an early start on your problem sets so that you can take advantage of office hours to seek assistance if needed.

Class Participation: 5% of your grade  
As mentioned above, students are expected to come to class having actively read the assigned materials. By "active reading" I mean taking notes on important points or confusing points while reading. These notes will enable you to review your own notes on chapter highlights for the exams rather than trying to "cram" by rereading everything just prior to the exam. Active reading also will prepare you to ask and answer questions in class, and to benefit from others' questions. In addition, specific discussion questions or debate preparation will be assigned periodically and your preparation for and participation in the planned discussions will be noted. I consider classroom participation to be crucial for your success in this course and will reward your efforts to be a good listener and prepared discussant accordingly.

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.
Economics 317
The Japanese Economy
Fall 2014

Professor Greaney
TR 1:30-2:45pm

**APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week (Tues. date)</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Textbook (plus coursepack readings)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 26</td>
<td>Introduction, Tokugawa Era Economy</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2 (Mon. holiday)</td>
<td>Tokugawa Era Economy</td>
<td>Ch. 1 and pp. 21-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td>Opening of Japan, Meiji Era</td>
<td>Ch. 2, pp. 28-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>Pre- &amp; Post-WWII Economic Growth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Labor Markets</td>
<td>Ch. 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 30</td>
<td>Public Finance, Savings Behavior</td>
<td>Ch. 10 &amp; 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 7</td>
<td>Industrial Organization</td>
<td>Ch. 12 and pp. 46-49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXAM 1: Thurs., Oct. 16**

| Oct. 14 | Industrial Organization, Industrial Policies | Ch. 12 and 9 |
| Oct. 21 | Industrial Policies | Ch. 9 and 11 |
| Oct. 28 | Foreign Trade | Ch. 8 |
| Nov. 4 (Tues. holiday) | Foreign Trade | Ch. 8 |
| Nov. 11 (Tues. holiday) | Japan-U.S. Economic Disputes | |
| Nov. 18 | Japan-U.S. Economic Disputes | |
| Nov. 25 (Thurs. holiday) | Current Economic Problems, Pecha Kucha Presentations | Ch. 13 (Finance) |
| Dec. 2 | Current Economic Problems, Pecha Kucha Presentations | |
| Dec. 9 (last class day Th.) | Finish topics; Review | |

**EXAM 2: Tues., Dec. 16**
12-2pm