

Osaka Gakuin University 2011-2012 Fall Semester

Japan's role in Global Economics

Instructor :

Stephen Dalton

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Lesson : Monday and Tuesday, 12:50-14:20

Office: 01-03-18

Office Hours : By appointment

Subject code : 1032

Course Description:

This course will trace the rise, fall, and rise again of globalization, with a special emphasis on Japan's role. How did globalization dovetail with the Meiji restoration? How has Japan chosen to deal with trade flows surrounding it? In what ways did the post-WWII landscape alter those choices? In what way are the "economic miracle", the "bubble" and the "Lost Decade" lessons for the rest of the world? In what ways are the Japanese people coping with the waning economy, especially after the Tohoku disasters? These, among others, are questions the course will address.

In addition to lectures, the course allots time for two student projects. Students will propose a topic for a five page research paper and presentation, and give weekly updates on their progress. The second project will be a case-study approach to the adjustment of the Japanese people to present-day economic realities. Students will interview (using an interpreter if necessary) ordinary Japanese citizens of various generations. The class will analyze the aggregated results to determine if there are lessons for the world at large going forward.

Resources

Course materials will be provided by the instructor.

Evaluation

The grade will given based on the participation to the lecture and discussion (30%), pop-quizzes (10%), in-class exercises (10%), field research and analysis (10%), midterm exam (15%) and final paper/presentation (25%). No previous knowledge about economics is expected. Evaluation method may change at the instructor's discretion depending on the class size and other factors.

Notes:

Course Schedule:

Week 1 & 2: Early Globalization

Week 3 & 4: Japan's Response

Week 5 & 6: Pre-WWII developments

Week 7 & 8: The Economic Miracle and the Cold War

Week 9 & 10: Midterm, Bubble and Bust

Week 11 & 12: Lost Decade & Lehman Shock

Week 13 & 14: Tohoku Disasters and the Way Forward

Week 15: Final Paper and Student Presentations