

Subject

Topics in Economics—Economic Affairs in Japan and Asia (lecture in English) [Spring]

Subject numbering

ECON2400

Lecturer

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Laboratory: St. Andrew Hall 11F Room 1128

Office hours: 5th period on Thursdays

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Number of credits

2 credit(s)

Tentative List of Topics to be Presented

This course is designed to introduce you to the basic understanding on what economic topics are discussed in Japan, and what economic theories and data are useful for these discussions. The course structure is, (1) the current economic situation in Japan, (2) structural problems in the Japanese economy, and (3) Japan's strategy towards Asian countries and their interrelation. Students' level of proficiency in English does not matter very much in attending the class sessions.

Throughout the lectures in this course, students will enable to:

- (1) Have basic knowledge in economic affairs in Japan and Asia which are well-known and referred often in the current discussion of the Japanese economy.
- (2) Know analytical tools (both economic and non-economic) which are, and should be, used in the discussions.
- (3) Participate in debates or discussions on current economic affairs, regardless of their major.

Preparation: Basic comprehension in micro- and macroeconomics will definitely give you an advantage to understand the topics more easily. In addition, reading relevant newspaper articles to each topic is recommended.

Review: Handouts are provided in each class session. The students are advised to check the meaning of important terms and theories as all of them may not be explained enough only within the class session.

1. Introduction of the course: Overview of the economic affairs in Japan and Asia.
2. Importance of measuring and comparing economic situations with data.
3. Economic problems for Japan: Macroeconomic.
4. Economic problems for Japan: Microeconomic (=structural).
5. Causes of long-lasting low growth in Japan.
6. Is deflation (low inflation) good for the (Japanese) economy?
7. Japan's fiscal problems (1): overview of fiscal deficit and debt outstanding.
8. Japan's fiscal problems (2): hikes of consumption tax and pension premium for fiscal austerity.
9. Japan's regulatory reforms (1): Japan's international competitiveness and structural reforms for ease of doing business.
10. Japan's regulatory reforms (2): Labour market reforms
11. South-East Asia as the centre of economic growth for the world.
12. Connectivity in the ASEAN: Process of establishing the Asia-Pacific huge economic region.
13. US-China economic conflicts and its consequences on the Asian economy: change in the supply-chain structure.
14. ASEAN's efforts for realizing 4th Industrial Revolution.
15. Other important topics

Evaluation

Examination: 0%

Report: 80%

Others: 20%

Report 「レポート」 = 40% for after-class assignments (max 8 times), 20% for the fill-in-the-blank type questions (at the end of the term), and 20% for a short essay (approx. 500 words) in English.

Others 「その他」 = 20%, based on your active participation in every class sessions.

(Attention) No online class sessions are provided even in the first and second weeks. You are required to take all lectures in the classroom from the first week.

Textbooks & Suggested References

Indicated in each class session.

Keywords

Class Time

Tuesday 1st period