



MSc and MPhil in Japanese Studies 2022/2023

Economy and Business of Japan

Professor Hugh Whittaker, Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies

There will be a set of 10 2-hour classes taught in Hilary and Trinity Terms.

Aims:

- To develop an understanding of the features and institutions of the Japanese economy, and how they compare with those of other countries
- To understand how Japanese economic institutions have evolved over time
- To understand the coherence of the postwar productionist model, and its transformation from the 1990s
- To explore current attempts to rebuild the economy around digital and green transformation

Topics to be covered include: (subject to revision)

- Introduction: An evolutionary and institutional perspective on the Japanese economy
- Continuity, change and controversies in Japan's 'catch-up' industrialization
- Japan's evolving enterprise 'system' and 'corporate capitalism'
- From small firms to entrepreneurship
- The rise and fall of 'Japanese-style employment'
- Technology and innovation: From catch-up to... catch-up?
- Financialization, corporate governance and 'new capitalism'
- Monetary policy, macroeconomy and 'Japanization'
- Digital and green Japan
- Japan's economic role in Asia and beyond

Learning Outcomes:

- a broad understanding of the Japanese economy and business, contributions of different theoretical and disciplinary perspectives, as well as current transformation of Japan's economy and business

Course Assessment:

The main assessment will be through a three-hour examination in Trinity Term.

All students will be required to submit two pieces of written work for assessment, one by the end of week 4 of the term in which the classes are taught. Details will be given during the first class of the term.

Note:

A background in economics is not a requirement to take this course.

Recommended Introductory Reading:

Ito, T. and Hoshi, T. (2020), *The Japanese Economy*, 2nd edition, Cambridge MA: MIT Press.

Flath, D. (2014), *The Japanese Economy*, 3rd edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Okazaki, T. and M. Okuno-Fujiwara ed.s (1999), *Japan's Economic System and Its Historical Origins*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Dore, R. (2000), *Stock Market Capitalism: Welfare Capitalism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Schaede, U. (2019), *The Business Reinvention of Japan: How to Make Sense of the New Japan and Why It Matters*, Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Chiavacci, D. and C. Hommerich ed.s (2017), *Social Inequality in Post-growth Japan: Transformation During Economic and Demographic Stagnation*, Abingdon: Routledge.

Whittaker, D.H., T. Sturgeon, T. Okita and T. Zhu (2020), *Compressed Development: Time and Timing in Economic and Social Development*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Statement of Coverage

This document applies to students starting the MSc and/or MPhil in Japanese Studies in Michaelmas Term 2022. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

Disclaimer

The information in this document is accurate as at 02 September 2022, however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges. If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.