

Osaka Gakuin University 2024-2025 Fall Semester	
The Japanese Economic System	
Instructor	
Yani Karavasilev E-mail: ykaravasilev@gmail.com Lesson: Tuesdays 15:30-17:15 & 17:30-19:15 Office Hours : By appointment Subject code : 1042	
Course Description	
This course aims to provide students not only with a multifaceted understanding of the historical and institutional background of the Japanese economy, but also with a strong analytical foundation in the core issues facing the economy. We will examine how business practices have evolved over the past century, how various policy decisions have affected the economy, and what the prospects are for Japan's role in the global economy. We will pay special attention to economic trends in the Kansai region.	
Resources	
There is no required textbook. However, course content is mainly based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ito, Takatoshi & Takeo Hoshi (2020) <i>The Japanese Economy, second edition</i>. The MIT Press. Handouts/PowerPoint slides will be provided for each class. Students are encouraged to consult the book as well as the following sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Johnson, Chalmers (1982) <i>MITI and the Japanese Miracle: The Growth of Industrial Policy, 1925-1975</i>. Stanford University Press. Other books and articles introduced in class. 	
Evaluation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An individual or group presentation: 35% An individual paper: 35% Attendance and active participation in class discussions: 30% Note: The evaluation method may change at the instructor's discretion depending on class size and other factors.	

Notes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Papers and other course work should be submitted by email. Students are expected to attend classes regularly, and are encouraged to ask questions anytime during class. Deadline extensions are possible if a good reason is provided. 	
Course Schedule:	
Week 1.	Japan's economic and social structure before the Industrial Revolution
Week 2.	The Japanese economy from the Meiji period to World War II
Week 3.	Japan's post-war economic miracle: the role of large companies and economic policies
Week 4.	Japan's bubble economy and the Heisei era: the lost decades
Week 5.	Japan's evolving economic policy: from state capitalism toward Abenomics and 'new capitalism'
Week 6.	Japan's financial system: the role of mega banks and the evolution of the Japanese capital market
Week 7.	Japan's labor market and demographic challenges: elderly, female, part-time and foreign workers
Week 8.	Japan's social security system: the sustainability of the pension and healthcare systems, and Japan's public debt
Week 9.	Japan's foreign direct investment, and foreign affiliates in Japan
Week 10.	Japan Inc. 2.0: innovation, digital transformation (DX), startup scene and venture companies
Week 11.	The evolution of corporate culture in Japan: working environment, seniority system and recruitment practices
Week 12.	A field trip to a Japanese company and/or a lecture by a guest speaker
Week 13.	The internationalization of the Japanese economy: immigration policies, tourism, and branding strategies
Note: Course contents and schedule are subject to change depending on class size and the discretion of the instructor.	