



MSc and MPhil in Japanese Studies 2019/2020

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 Term and the first two weeks of Trinity Term.

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 sources of Japan's rapid economic growth and the difficulties from the 1990s
- To explore current domestic and external challenges, including ageing, new production systems, and regional integration

Topics to be covered include: (subject to revision)

- Japan's economic rise and its significance
- Savings, finance and industrial policy in the post-war 'miracle'
- Japan's enterprise 'system' and 'alliance capitalism'
- Small firms and entrepreneurship
- Labour and employment
- Technology and innovation
- Corporate governance
- The macro economy: What went wrong?
- Japan's economic role in emerging Asia
- Abenomics, ageing and agriculture

Learning Outcomes:

- a broad understanding of the Japanese economy and business, contributions of different theoretical and disciplinary perspectives, as well as current challenges facing 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 a piece of written work for assessment 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.

Recommended Introductory Reading:

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

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

Ito, T., H. Patrick and D. Weinstein eds (2005), *Reviving Japan's Economy*, Cambridge MA: MIT Press.

Johnson, C. (1982), *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*, Stanford: Stanford University Press.

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

Vogel, S. (2006), *Japan Remodeled: How Government and Industry are Reforming Japanese Capitalism*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Whittaker, D.H. and S. Deakin ed.s (2009), *Corporate Governance and Managerial Reform in Japan*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Statement of Coverage

This document applies to students starting the MSc and/or MPhil in Japanese Studies in Michaelmas Term 2019. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

Disclaimer

The information in this document is accurate as at 09 October 2019, 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.