ECONOMICS 284  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF JAPAN  
Course Syllabus  

Fall 2012  
Tu & Th 1:15 – 3:00  
Location: Willis 211  

Professor Bruce R. Dalgaard  
Office: Willis 215  
Office Hours: Tu-Th 3:15-5:00  
We 2:00-5:00 and by app’t  
e-mail: bdalgaard@carleton.edu  
phone: ext. 7874  

Syllabus content may be changed so be sure to check with professor if you’ve missed any class announcements.
1) Tu 911

INTRODUCTION

Review recent video reports re: Japan from sources such as these:


and read the following:

THE JAPANESE DILEMMA and ITS RELEVANCE FOR U.S.

Review basic economic principles and modes of analysis

Alexander, pp. 1-14; Adams, chapter 1
CULTURE AS FACTOR IN ECONOMIC ANALYSIS: JAPAN AS CASE STUDY

2) Th 9/13 Katzner: chapter 1, chapter 2 pp. 17–31, and chapter 3

ECONOMIC GROWTH

3) Tu 9/18
a) Preconditions—Tokugawa

Alexander, pp. 12–26

b) Transition to Modernization

Alexander, pp. 26–39 and Flath, pp. 28–41
UNDERSTANDING THE JAPANESE CONTEXT

c) Forces Influencing Japan

Fallows, *Looking at the Sun*

Flath, pp. 86-92

d) Pre-war Economy

Alexander, pp. 40-57 and Flath, pp. 43-58

4) Tu 9/20
e) Occupation and Post-war Restructuring

Alexander, pp. 68-91 and Flath pp. 71-86
EXPLAINING POST-WAR GROWTH--MICRO
a) Saving
Flath, chapter 5 and Katzner chapter 5

Take Home Quiz I Distributed

5) Th 9/27
Take Home Quiz I Due
b) Industrial Policy
Flath, chapter 9 and Katzner chapter 9

2:15 RESEARCH SKILLS WORKSHOP
w/Kristin Partlo, Gould Library 306

6) Tu 10/2
c) Industrial Organization
Flath, chapter 12

7) Th 10/4
d) Saving
Flath, chapter 5 and Katzner, chapter 5

8) Tu 10/9
e) Labor
Flath, chapter 15

8) Th 10/11
Midterm Exam

9) Tu 10/16
EXPLAINING POST-WAR GROWTH--MACRO
a) Overview
Adams chapter 2

10) Th 10/18
b) International Trade and Finance
Flath, chapters 7 & 8
11) Tu 10/23  
c) Financial System  
Alexander, pp. 92-121  
Flath, chapters 6 & 13

12) Th 10/25  
d) Explaining Japanese Economic ‘Miracle’  
Katzner, chapter 6

13) Tu 10/30  
FINANCIAL BUBBLE AND LOST DECADE  
a) Plaza-Louve Period  
Handout: Grimes, Unmaking Japanese Miracle, pp. 108-126

14) Th 11/1  
b) Inflating and Bursting Bubble  
S & S, pp. 1-34, Koo, chapter 1, pp. 1-37  
c) The ‘Lost Decade’  
Dealing with Stagnation  
S & S, pp. 99-118 and 59-72; Adams chapter 3

15) Tu 11/6  
c) The ‘Lost Decade’ continued  
Koo, chapter 2, pp. 39-83 and chapter 4, pp. 125-155
CHALLENGES FOR 21ST CENTURY

16) Th 11/8  
a) Structural Changes
Adams chapter 8, Alexander, pp. 122-171; S & S, pp. 35-58
and either Koo, chapter 6, pp. 185-220 or Alexander, pp. 172-187

Responses in New Century
Adams chapter 3, 4 and 5

Take Home Quiz Distributed

17) Tu 11/13  
b) Prospects for Japan

Adams chapter 9 and 10, Alexander, pp. 188-206 and

(look under vol. 1 #1, January 2006)

Take Home Quiz Due

18) Th 11/15 c) Implications for the U.S.
Alexander, pp. 172-187, Koo, chapter 7, pp. 221-252 and
R. Taggart Murphy, “Rethinking the Lessons for The U.S. and
the World of Japan’s 1990s Economic Collapse: Finance
Capital and the State”

http://japanfocus.org/R_Taggart-Murphy/3131

R. Taggart Murphy, “The Financial Crisis and the Tectonic
Shifts in the US-Japan Relationship”

http://japanfocus.org/R_Taggart-Murphy/3200

Friday, November 16th—Research Paper Due at Sushi Party, 5:00; 614
E. Fifth St.

TEXTBOOKS
Adams refers to F. Gerard Adams, Lawrence R. Klein, et. al., Accelerating Japan’s
Alexander refers to Arthur Alexander, The Arc of Japan’s Economic Development,
Routledge, 2008.
Flath refers to David Flath, The Japanese Economy, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press,
2005.
Katzner refers to Donald W. Katzner, Culture and Economic Explanation: Economics in
the US and Japan, Routledge, 2008.
Koo refers to Richard C. Koo, The Holy Grail of Macro Economics: Lessons from
S&S refers to Gary R. Saxonhouse and Robert M. Stern, Japan’s Lost Decade: Origins,
EVALUATION

Class participation. This is more than attendance; it refers to initiating questions, responding to questions, and interacting with fellow students. 30 points (6% of total)

Quizzes. Two short answer, open book/note take-home quizzes. 60 points each (together 24% of total).

Midterm Exam. In-class exam, short answer and essay format. 100 points (20% of total).

Short Analysis Papers. Three short (2-3 pages) papers, two summarizing and analyzing English-language Japanese newspaper stories/editorials (your choosing), and one a critique of the film, “Tokyo Sonata”. 35 points each, total 105 (20% of total).

Research Paper. Select a topic that you want to research. Have the topic approved by the instructor. Approach the topic as though you are constructing a research paper, utilizing mostly primary sources and some secondary sources. The more data-based your final project, the better. A completely annotated bibliography must accompany the paper. Handout will describe options, style, format, etc. 150 points (30% of total).

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

• Apply prevailing economic theories to explain Japan’s economic experience, evaluating which theories have relevance and which do not and why
• Understand aspects of Japanese culture and society that impact economic actions, decisions, and policies and be able to explain the connections
• Compare and contrast economic development strategies and policies in Japan’s pre-war era with those in the post-war era
• Provide theoretically sound explanations for Japan’s post-war ‘economic miracle’ and its subsequent post-‘bubble’ stagnation
• Explain how the Japanese response(s) to its financial crisis inform(s) the U.S. financial crisis and its response(s)

Course Logistics/Imperatives/Suggestions

Late Assignments: All assignments are expected at the beginning of the class on the date due. Late assignments will be accepted, but graded accordingly. Permission for a late submission will be considered, but only before the due date, and only with substantial extenuating circumstances.

Academic Integrity: For out-of-class work, even that which allows the use of books/notes, etc., you are responsible for maintaining academic integrity. This means your submissions to me (quizzes, analysis papers, research paper) will be entirely your work. For the take-home quizzes you may consult any classroom-generated/classroom-
related sources but not other individuals. Any act of academic dishonesty or misconduct will be referred to the Office of the Dean.

**Academic Support:** Contact Kathy Evertz, Director of the Academic Support Center, or any of her staff for assistance. Contact the Writing Center for assistance with writing project.

**Disability and Student Disability Services:** Contact Andy Christensen, Coordinator of Disability Services in the Academic Support Center if you need and accommodation for this class.