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# LECTURE COURSES IN JAPANESE AREA STUDIES

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*All of the lecture courses listed are taught in English by scholars highly qualified in their respective fields. Assignments for some courses may include work in Japanese, but unless otherwise stated, there are no restrictions regarding the level of Japanese that students are required to possess.*

## 21010 JAPANESE ECONOMY I CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE ECONOMY

**INSTRUCTOR:** Masatsugu Tsuji

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The main purpose of this course is to analyze the special characteristics of the Japanese economy in comparison with other economies, particularly the economic behavior of its households, companies, and government. The role and theoretical foundation of Japanese socio-economic systems such as lifetime employment, seniority, industrial groups, and the hierarchical or subcontracting production systems that promote Japanese economic development are included in the topics covered. With the recession that resulted from the bursting of the bubble economy in the 1990s, the Japanese economy reached its lowest level in the post-war period during what is referred to as the “lost decade.” This recession was caused by the transformation of the Japanese economy to cope with globalization and the advent of the information society of the twenty-first century. The socio-economic system itself, however, has come to be an obstacle to this transformation. Thus, the course pays special attention to the merits and demerits of the Japanese system, to the analysis of proposed changes such as deregulation, and to the new direction of the Japanese economy and Japanese business in the age of information and the Internet. Please note that auditing is permitted for this course.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

#### I. *The Japanese economic system*

1. Employment system
2. Socio-economic foundation of the Japanese employment system
3. Industrial group (1): Vertical group
4. Industrial group (2): Horizontal group
5. Japanese production system: Case of Toyota
6. Socio-economic foundation of the Japanese production system

#### II. *The Japanese economic system in transition*

7. Structural changes in the Japanese economy
8. Globalization and hollowing-out of the economy
9. Aging society and the Japanese employment system
10. IT revolution in the Japanese economy
11. Japanese technology and venture businesses
12. New growth in the age of information and the Internet

### TEXTS

*Textbook:* None

### *Required Reading*

Masatsugu Tsuji, “Transformation of the Japanese system towards a network economy.” In *The Internet*

*Revolution: A Global Perspective*, ed. E. Giovannetti, M. Kagami, and M. Tsuji, pp. 7–20. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. Copies are available in the University Library.

*Supplementary Reading*

Masatsugu Tsuji, Mitsuhiro Kagami, and Emanuele Giovannetti (eds.), *Information Technology Policy and the Digital Divide: Lessons for Developing Countries*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2004.

Takatoshi Ito, *The Japanese Economy*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1992.

Mitsuhiro Kagami and Masatsugu Tsuji (eds.), *Privatization, Deregulation and Economic Efficiency*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2000.

Karel van Wolferen, *The Enigma of Japanese Power*. London: Macmillan, 1989.

James Fallow, *More Like Us: Making America Great Again*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1989.

**ASSESSMENT**

Class participation 30%; Term paper 30%; Final examination 40%