

Economic Development of Japan ECO3810E

Spring 2022 - Thursday 16:40 to 18:10 – Classroom F

Instructor: Prof. Kenichi Ohno

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Revised May 20, 2022

This course reviews the history of Japanese economic development from the Edo period (17-19c) to present. Topics are chronologically arranged. Economics is the main focus but social, political, diplomatic and military issues are also covered as necessary background. The reason for Japan's early industrialization, impact of external influences, interaction between economics and politics, and the state's role and private sector dynamism will be featured. Historical data will be amply presented and academic debates by economists and historians will be explained.

Date	Topic	Textbook chapter	Lecture slides
APR 07	Overview and the meaning of modernization for latecomers	ch.1	lec 1
APR 14	Edo period: pre-conditions of industrialization and modernization	ch.2	lec 2
APR 28	Meiji 1: key goals of Meiji government	ch.3	lec 3
MAY 12	Meiji 2: politics of Meiji industrialization and modernization	ch.3	lec 4
MAY 19	Meiji 3: technology transfer and major industries	chs.4&5	lec 5
MAY 26	Meiji 4: budget, finance and macro balance	ch.6	lec 6
JUN 02	World War I and the 1920s: export-led boom and collapse	ch.7	lec 7
JUN 09	Showa Financial Crisis of 1927	ch.8	lec 8
JUN 16	The 1930s and the war economy	ch.9	lec 9
JUN 23	Postwar recovery 1945-49	ch.10	lec 10
JUL 07	Postwar high growth of 1950s-60s	ch.11	lec 11
JUL 14	MITI and industrial policy	ch.11	lec 12
JUL 21	Economic maturity and slowdown 1970s-80s	ch.12	lec 13
JUL 28	Bubble burst, Abenomics & remaining challenges	ch.13	lec 14&15

Notes: 1/ No class on April 21 and June 30. Schedule is subject to change due to the instructor's research travel.

2/ Lecture slides are downloadable from my lecture website (see above).

Grading is based on one term paper (deadline **July 31, 2022**). Choose one topic from below: (i) Assessment of public-private interaction in industrial development of Japan; (ii) Comparison of Japanese experience and similar experience of another (your) country; (iii) Detailed analysis of Japanese industrialization (deepen and go beyond class materials & discussion). In each case, one particular period and one particular sector/issue must be selected for analysis. Do not discuss generally or without focus. Use 1 to 3 analytical points if Japan and another country are compared. 10 pages or less, single-spaced. One figure or table, and a list of references must be included. Footnotes/endnotes are optional. Evaluation criteria: topic selection (25%), logical flow (25%), depth of analysis (25%), style and English (25%).

Textbook: K. Ohno, *The History of Japanese Economic Development*, Routledge, 2018. Available at Routledge website. This book is OPEN ACCESS ([free download](#)). If you prefer a hardcopy, students may purchase a paperback edition directly from the instructor at discount (4,000 yen). Lecture slides are downloadable from the instructor's website.