

KC3023 Contemporary Global Issues A

'- International Economics and Development -

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Tue 5

【Course Description】

This course provides an introduction to international economics and the economics of development. Although the course covers standard theories in the field, it seeks intuitive understanding and applies these theories to a number of contemporary Japanese issues. It welcomes students wishing to understand the basics of international economics and gain new perspectives on the Japanese economy.

【Class Goals】

By the end of the course, students will be able to make intelligent and informed discussion on international economic issues. They will also understand how Japan engages in the world economy and how its domestic problems are reflected in its external relations.

【Course Schedule】

Week 1: Introduction: a survey on the world economy
Week 2: Comparative advantage and international trade
Week 3: Factor accumulation and international trade
Week 4: Politics and institutions of trade policy
Week 5: Foreign market entry and international production
Week 6: Foreign direct investment and multinational enterprises
Week 7: Migration
Week 8: Review / mid-term exam
Week 9: Exchange rates and purchasing power parity
Week 10: Exchange rate regimes
Week 11: Exchange rate politics
Week 12: Fundamentals of economic growth
Week 13: Economic development, human welfare and social change
Week 14: Population aging and economic growth
Week 15: Review / final exam

【Preparation for Class】

Read the textbook.

【Review of Class】

Read the textbook.

【Remarks for Class】

Although the instructor attempts to minimize mathematical exposition, students should not avoid simple algebra and graphical analysis. A little bit of patience takes you a long way.

【Texts】

Kenneth A. Reinert, 2012, An Introduction to International Economics: New Perspectives on the World Economy, Cambridge University Press

Note: Obtain a copy of this book as soon as possible and bring it to every class. You will not earn credits without reading the textbook.

【Reference Books】

Ian Goldwin, 2016, The Purpose of Development: Economic Growth, Social Change, and Ideas, Oxford University Press

Paul R. Krugman, Maurice Obstfeld and Marc J. Melitz, 2014, International Economics (10th ed.), Pearson

Reference only; no need to purchase.

【Evaluation Criteria】

Essay and/or presentation: 30 percent

Mid-term exam: 30 percent

Final exam: 40 percent

Note: the evaluation method is tentative and subject to change.

【Related URL】

To be set up and informed by the first week.

【Notes】