REC6075 Development of Japanese Industry and Business

Fall 2015

PROFESSOR:      Yoshitaka Okada
CLASS ROOM:      
CLASS HOURS:    6:00 pm – 9:10 pm on Mondays
OFFICE HOURS:   after the class on Mondays

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

How did Japanese business practices and industry develop from the Meiji Restoration (1868) to the present? How did government industrial and technology policies, industrial structures, industrial relations, and production technologies influence the development of industry and business practices? What is happening with these issues presently in Japan? This course tries to answer these questions by tracing historical changes and also studying some cases, including Toyota and the Japanese semiconductor industry. Class lectures will be based on the theoretical framework of institutional economics and economic sociology.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Reading Assignments:  None. Key reference in each section is * marked in this syllabus with PDF files provided in the IUJ computer system.

2. Take-home Mid-term Examination Due:  Week 7
   Please pick one topic out of (a) Industrial Organization, (b) Government-Business Relations, and (c) Sogo Shosha (General Trading Companies), and answer the following questions, not exceeding 15 pages (double-space).
   (1) Please trace the historical transformation of your selected topic from the Pre-WWII period to the present. (40 pt.)
      (To answer this question, you need to take a good note of my lectures.)
   (2) Identify both persistent and changing characteristics. (20 pt.)
   (3) How do you explain the persistence and change? (20 pt.)
   (4) How can the topic you covered be applied to your own country? (20 pt.)

3. Paper:  One term paper of 15-20 pages is required. Select an issue or problem related to the development of Japanese industry and business, and write a very analytical paper by reviewing books, journal articles, and/or newspaper. Please make sure that you specify a basic question that you are asking in your paper in Introduction.
   Due Date:  Week 11

4. Paper Presentation:  Week 11

COURSE GRADE:  
   40% on mid-term examination,
   50% on term paper
   10% on class participation and presentation

COURSE OUTLINE:

I. Institutional Economics and General History of Japanese Economic Development
II. Industrial Organization
III. Government-Business Relations
IV. Sogo Shosha (General Trading Companies)
V. Japanese Management
VI. Japanese Production System
CLASS SCHEDULE (This is a very short version. If you need full references, please request Prof. Okada.)

I.A. Institutional Economics and General History of Japanese Economic Development

Week 1


II. Industrial Organizations

Week 2
Week 3


III. GOVERNMENT-BUSINESS RELATIONS

Week 4
Week 5

III.A. JAPANESE MODEL


III.B1. GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL POLICIES


III.B2. GOVERNMENT TECHNOLOGY POLICIES


IV. SOGO SHOSHA

Week 6

IV.A. WHAT ARE SOGO SHOSHA?


IV.B. HISTORICAL EVOLUTION

3. A. K. Young, pp. 31-56.


IV.C. SERVICE AND RESOURCES


IV.D. ROLES IN INDUSTRIALIZATION

9. A. K. Young, pp. 119-144.
10. K. Yoshihara, pp. 204-228.

VI. JAPANESE MANAGEMENT (Mid-term Examination Due)

VI.A1. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Week 7 3. James C. Abegglen, The Japanese Factory, (Glencoe, Ill.: The Free Press, 1958);
Week 8 Management and Worker, (Tokyo: Kodansha International Ltd., 1973; The Strategy of


VI.A2. Historical Development


VI.B. CULTURAL EXPLANATIONS


VI.C1. Universalistic Explanations


VII. Japanese Production System

**Week 10**


44. Robert W. Hall, "The Toyota kanban system," in ibid., pp. 144-151.


VI.F. Industrial Explanations


Paper Presentations

**Week 11** (Term Paper Due)