

**BUEC 444 – section 852  
International Study Tour to Japan  
Winter Term 2020**

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This document details the ACADEMIC issues for the BUEC 444 Course (Japan Study Tour). You will be provided with other detailed information regarding TRAVEL related issues by the study tour instructor, Mr. Mic McCollum.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

BUEC 444 is a full 3-credit academic course in the Bachelor of Commerce program. Each student will receive a letter grade for the course (A+, B- etc.). The purpose of this course is to provide students with an opportunity to learn about the economic environment and business practices in Japan in an experiential way through a study tour to Japan. The course will comprise of lectures, company visits and other cultural or historic site visits in Japan. Its focus or learning objectives will include understanding of Japan's economic development process, business model and culture as well as the current economic and business issues confronting Japan. Incidental to these learning outcomes will be a better understanding of international business and challenges for Canada in today's global economy.

### **SESSION DATES**

The classroom component of the course will take place during the Winter 2020 semester. In addition to lectures with the course instructor, there will be one or two preparatory sessions with the study tour instructor on orientation, practical matters, and pre-departure issues. All session will take place in a School of Business room 3-10. The following lecture session dates have been scheduled for the 2020 Study Tour:

January 18, 2020 (9:00 am to 12:00 pm)  
February 8, 2020 (9:00 am to 12:00 pm)  
March 14, 2020 (9:00 am to 3:00 pm)  
March 28, 2020 (9:00 am to 12:00 pm)

## LEARNING MATERIALS

There is no required textbook for this course. The required readings and other reference materials are available from the library or downloadable from relevant websites.

### Required Readings

1. Lonien, Claude, Guest Editor's Introduction, *The Japanese Economy*, vol. 34, no. 3, Fall 2007, pp. 3–4.
2. Chapter 1. The Old Japanese Keiretsu Model, *The Japanese Economy*, vol. 34, no. 3, Fall 2007, pp. 5–36.
3. Chapter 2. The Economic and Sociologic Reasons Explaining the Structural Impediments in the Japanese Economy, *The Japanese Economy*, vol. 34, no. 3, Fall 2007, pp. 37–86.
4. Chapter 3. What Is the Most Likely Future Trend of the Pillars of Japanese Management? *The Japanese Economy*, vol. 34, no. 3, Fall 2007, pp. 87–113.
5. Conclusion, *The Japanese Economy*, vol. 34, no. 3, Fall 2007, pp. 114–17.

### Useful Website on the Japan Economy and Japan – Canada Trade Relations

1. [https://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/japan-japon/bilateral\\_relations\\_bilaterales/index.aspx?lang=eng#a1](https://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/japan-japon/bilateral_relations_bilaterales/index.aspx?lang=eng#a1)
2. [https://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/japan-japon/bilateral\\_relations\\_bilaterales/fs-japan-fd.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/japan-japon/bilateral_relations_bilaterales/fs-japan-fd.aspx?lang=eng)
3. <https://countryeconomy.com/countries/compare/japan/canada>
4. <https://tradingeconomics.com/japan/gdp-per-capita>

### Lecture and Study References

1. Aiyar, Shekhar et.al., Growth slowdowns and the middle-income trap, *The World Economy*, 48 (2018) 22–37
2. Athukorala, Prema-chandra, Asian trade flows: Trends, patterns and prospects, *Japan and the World Economy*, 24 (2012) 150–162
3. Beckley, M. Horiuchi, Y., & Miller, J. (2018). America's Role in the Making of Japan's Economic Miracle, *Journal of East Asian Studies*, 18 (1), 1-21
4. Chen Pu, and Chih-Ying Hsiao, What happens to Japan if China catches a cold? A causal analysis of Chinese growth and Japanese growth, *Japan and the World Economy*, 20 (2008) 622–638

5. Dhakal, Dharmendra et.al, The role of savings in economic Development: The U.S. and Japanese experiences, *Japan and the World Economy*, 3 (1991) 331-340
6. Daly, George, G., Entrepreneurship and Culture in the US and Japan, *Japan and the World Economy*, 10 (1998) 487 - 494
7. Dyer, Jeffery, & Wujin Chu, The Determinants of Trust in Supplier-automaker Relationships in the US, Japan, and Korea, *Journal of International Business Studies*, 31, 2, (2nd quarter 2000), 259 – 285
8. Drucker, Peter F., What we can learn from Japanese management: Decision by 'consensus,' lifetime employment, continuous training, and the godfather system suggest ways to solve U.S. problems, *Harvard Business Review*, March 1971 @ <https://hbr.org/1971/03/what-we-can-learn-from-japanese-management>
9. Helble, Matthias & Boon-Loong Ngiang, From global factory to global mall? East Asia's changing trade composition and orientation, *Japan and the World Economy*, 39 (2016) 37–47
10. Ihuri, Toshihiro, Public policy and economic growth: Japan and the United States, *Japan and the World Economy*, 7 (1995) 113-130
11. Kuroda, Sachiko & Isamu Yamamoto, Good boss, bad boss, workers' mental health and productivity: Evidence from Japan, *Japan & The World Economy*, 48 (2018) 106–118
12. Miata, Yukio, An Economic Analysis of Cooperative R & D in Japan, *Japan and the World Economy*, 7 (1995) 29-345
13. Miata, Yukio & Mansfield, Edwin, Flexible Manufacturing Systems, Economic effects in Japan, United States, and Western Europe, *Japan and the World Economy*, 4 (1992) 1-16
14. Ohno, Kenichi, The Economic Development of Japan, the Path Traveled by Japan as a Developing Country, GRIPS Development Forum, 2006 @ <http://www.grips.ac.jp/forum/pdf06/EDJ.pdf>
15. Watanabe, Chihiro & Yukio Honda, Japanese industrial science & technology policy in the 1990s: MITI's role at a turning point, *Japan and the World Economy*, 4 (1992) 47-67
16. Wen, Yanga, Yi-Cheng Liub, & Chao-Cheng Maic, How did Japanese exports evolve from 1995 to 2014? A spatial econometric perspective, *Japan and the World Economy*, 41 (2017) 50–58
17. World Bank Group, Economy Profile of Japan: Doing Business 2020 Indicators @ <https://www.doingbusiness.org/content/dam/doingBusiness/country/j/japan/JPN.pdf>
18. Yeh, Kuo-chun & Tai-kuang Ho, Will Japan, Taiwan or the US be isolated by China? A macroeconomic game approach, *Japan and the World Economy*, 22 (2010) 59–68

## Video Resources on Cross Cultural Communication

- Cultural difference in business | Valerie Hoeks | TEDxHaarlem  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMwjscSCcf0>
- HSBC Funny Culture AD  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6\\_WAmt3cMdk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_WAmt3cMdk)

## EVALUATION METHODS

Student performance in this course will be assessed on the basis of (1) an academic project, and (2) class participation and participation in activities during the Japan Trip. The project has a weight of 80% (30% for a group presentation and 50% for a written report). Participation in classroom and Japan activities combine for a weight of 20%. This will be the *preliminary* grade that will be submitted to the Undergraduate Office before we leave on the trip. In addition, (3) behavior on the trip can affect the final grade as described below.

***Prior to the trip, grades will be posted as “IN” or incomplete. Students who need a grade submitted for convocation will receive a preliminary grade of a “C+.” Once the trip has concluded, then the official grades will be submitted to the BCom Office and grade changes will be processed.***

### 1. The Academic project

The Project is to be done in groups of four to be decided by the instructor. It will include a group presentation on March 28, 2020 with a written report due on April 8, 2020.

- The Project will be on any topic relating to the business & economic environment of Japan. Your group may use one of the suggested project topics below or choose one of your own provided it is approved by the instructor.
  1. Keiretsu and Japan’s distribution system with focus on a specific sector (i.e. consumer electronics, food or consumer goods)
  2. Impact of Japan’s labor shortages on its immigration policy
  3. Guaranteed lifetime employment in Japan – history and its future
  4. The Comprehensive and Progressive TPP and Canada’s access to the Japanese market
  5. Japan’s trade relations with China
  6. Japan’s trade relations with Korea
  7. Japanese foreign direct investment abroad – trends and destinations
  8. Japan’s energy policy – needs, sources and future direction
  9. Japan’s corporate culture – management and employment practices, and supplier and customer relations
  10. Impacts of the just-in-time and continuous improvement on global management practices
  11. The education system of Japan
- The project should be between 12 and 15 pages, 1 and ½ spacing. Standard font.
- When evaluating the project I will be looking for *originality, organization, creativity, research efforts, analytical contribution and careful documentation of sources.*

- The type of “analysis” you can use in your project may be anything that you have been exposed to in the BCom program, e.g. case study; statistical analysis; marketing analysis; financial analysis, economic analysis, or any other kind of business analysis. For example, analyses of current economic problems and trends in Japan, specific business practices or government policies, and issues related to business culture are acceptable topics.

## **2. Participation**

Your grade for participation will be determined by your contribution to success of the lectures, classroom activities and other program components prior to departure as well as all host academic sessions, company visits and other activities within Japan through questions and discussions.

## **3. Behavior on the trip**

Based on our experience with previous Study Tours in past years, we use a *Three Strikes* rule to evaluate “good behavior” on the course. We have listed a few actions by individuals which can cause significant problems to the group as a whole, and can therefore affect final grades. Further verbal clarification will also be provided.

- Missing deadlines for submitting payments, required paperwork or providing information to coordinators.
- Late by five minutes or more for any activity on the course.
- Inappropriate attire - business casual dress is required for lectures, meetings and company visits.
- Inappropriate behavior of any kind, which could complicate group arrangements, potentially damage relationships or reflect poorly on the Alberta School of Business.

These actions will impact your grade as follows.

1. First Offence – Warning
2. Second Offence – Warning
3. Third Offence – Lose one grade symbol (i.e. A+ becomes A; A- becomes B+, etc)
4. Fourth Offence – Lose one FULL letter grade (i.e. A+ becomes B+ etc).
5. Fifth Offence – Failure of the Course

NOTE: The “Three Strikes Rule” is for minor offenses. For any offense which significantly embarrasses the University of Alberta, I reserve the right to give a failing grade for BUEC 444 to any student and/or to request the student immediately leave the trip without any reimbursement.

These grade changes are non-negotiable.