

Institutions and Organizations in Japan
Module 3.3:Disciplinary Approaches to East Asian Studies
Summer Semester 2009

MA Contemporary East Asian Studies
K. Shire

Time & Place:
Wednesdays 16 – 18
LE 713

Office Hour:
Thursdays 15 – 16

Aims:

In comparative institutional studies Japan represents an important deviation from the ‘liberal market’ economies of the UK and US on the one hand, but strong similarities to the regulated economies of Europe. The aim of this course is to understand the origins of the Japanese ‘regulated’ economy, to place it comparatively, and to engage in an analysis of challenges posed by contemporary social and economic changes on Japanese institutions and organizations. An emphasis is placed on institutional and social structural dimensions of work and employment in Japan. MA Students will be required to formulate a research proposal, which includes a review of recent research and debates about the topic, the formulation of a research question and a research design. The course is especially relevant for students who are planning to write an MA thesis in the near future.

Expectations and Evaluation:

Students are expected to attend the course regularly, and to complete an estimated two-three hours of preparation per week, which mainly consists of reading the required texts and preparing to present the texts in class. Preparation will be tested at the beginning of every Unit (Theory reading) through short written answers to questions about the introductory reading assignment. All Students are responsible for leading one of the meetings during the semester, including a presentation of the reading and moderation of the discussion.

Evaluation:

MA Students and Diplom students who wish to receive a LNw will be evaluated on both their classroom presentation, regular reading and participation and on the final research proposal: In-class participation comprises 40%, the final research proposal 60% of the course grade.

Course Materials:

After the first session, students will be invited to a course folder on the university BSCW server, for which a valid e-mail address is necessary. All required readings for the course will be posted on the server, and students are expected to download and print these materials themselves.