

ECN320 Lecture on Local Economy

1st and 2nd quarters, Junior

Instructor	KIMURA RYO
Style of Class	Lecture
Number of Credits	2
Day and Period	To be advised

Course Description

To understand the various problems facing regional economies in modern Japan, it is necessary to review, in particular, how the factors that supported the relative wealth accumulation in the 1970s (also referred to as the era of the regions) transformed considerably owing to phenomena such as globalization, a declining birth rate and societal aging from the 1990s. This course looks at the background to those changes and cultivates basic knowledge to understand regional economies, while also referring to relevant conditions in Fukui Prefecture. Students will first review an outline of transformations in regional economies from the 1970s to the present, and correlate these with changes in the Japanese and global economies. Next, they will learn where various regional statistical data necessary to support an understanding of regional economies are stored and how to utilize these data. Thereafter, students will deepen their understanding of the historical background and prevailing challenges with regard to concrete themes related to regional economies such as regional industry clusters, regional development, and revitalization of central city areas. Finally, students will gain the ability to size up various problems faced by the regional economies in Fukui Prefecture based on various knowledge acquired throughout the course.

Course Objectives

- (1) Reflect on the characteristics and background of the transformations in regional economies across different periods including Japan's period of rapid growth, the period of stable growth from the 1970s, and the period of low growth from the 1990s, while also taking into account domestic and international factors.
- (2) Based on fundamental knowledge of regional economies, use various statistical data, literature and materials to research various problems faced by the economy of Fukui Prefecture, and explain such issues to others.

Prerequisites

Introduction to Global and Community Studies, Macroeconomics, Introduction to Sociology, Introductory Statistics, Spatial Data Analysis

Class Materials

(Textbooks)

Okada Tomohiro et al., *Kokusaika jidai no chiiki keizaigaku (daisanban)* (Regional Economy in the Age of Internationalization (Third Edition)), Yuhikaku Publishing, 2007.

(Reference literature)

Fukui Prefecture, *Fukuiken-shi tsushihen-roku kingendai-ni* (History of Fukui Prefecture, History Overview 6, Modern Era 2), 1995.

Fukui Industrial Support Center (all annual volumes) *Fukuiken no keizai* (Fukui Prefecture's Economy).

e-Stat

Fukui Prefecture website

Websites of corporations operating out of Fukui Prefecture

Course Method

Classes will be conducted with the help of presentation slides, and summaries and materials will be distributed to students. Although classes will essentially take the form of lectures, time will be set aside on several occasions for discussions based on reports drafted individually by students in response to questions assigned during classes. In addition, the lecturer will distribute a list of questions in each class, which will be explained in the next class.

Evaluation/Assessment

Students will be evaluated on the basis of reports assigned during class and related discussion content, and on a final paper (creation of presentation slides regarding prevailing economic conditions and challenges in Fukui Prefecture).

Grading

25%	Assignment reports
10%	Discussions
65%	Final paper

Course Schedule

Week 1: History and present state of regional economies (1)

Gain an understanding of political and economic factors that supported the relative wealth accumulated by the regions in the 1970s.

Week 2: History and present state of regional economies (2)

Gain an understanding of the present conditions and challenges faced by regional economies amid the globalization trend that started from the 1990s.

Week 3: Regional economy statistics (1)

Learn about demographic statistics such as national and economic censuses, business statistics, and learn how to use statistics.

Week 4: Regional economy statistics (2)

Learn about economic statistics centered on industrial and commerce statistics.

Week 5: Regional economies statistics (3)

Learn about prefectural accounts and industry-related tables.

Week 6: Discussion (1)

Conduct discussions based on analytic reports created with regional economy data.

Week 7: Regional industry clusters (1)

Gain fundamental knowledge on the development of textile industry clusters in Fukui Prefecture.

Week 8: Regional industry clusters (2)

Gain an understanding of the strengths of basic industry clusters through concrete examples.

Week 9: Regional industry clusters (3)

Reflect on the actual conditions and background of the contraction in regional industry clusters from the 1990s, as well as on related local government policies.

Week 10: Regional development and financial affairs (1)

Learn about the correlation between growth in regional economies and regional development during the period of rapid economic growth, while focusing particularly on Fukui Prefecture.

Week 11: Regional development and financial affairs (2)

Reflect on the correlation between regional development and regional wealth in the regional period from the 1970s, and transformations from the 1990s.

Week 12: Discussion (2)

Conduct discussions on the basis of reports on the internationalization of companies operating out of Fukui Prefecture.

Week 13: Regional development and revitalization of central city areas (1)

Gain an understanding of resort development and the town revitalization boom in the early 1990s, and subsequent regional development trends.

Week 14: Regional development and revitalization of central city areas (2)

Gain knowledge about the background to the revisions of three laws related to urban development, and about trends to revitalize central city areas in Fukui City.

Week 15: Regional development and revitalization of central city areas (3)

This lecture will cover the case study of the shopping district in Marugamemachi, Takamatsu City, which is one of the rare examples of successful revitalization of a central city area. Students will reflect on elements necessary for urban development and revitalization of city areas.

Preparation and Follow-up

- Preparation: Review the lecture summaries posted on the student portal prior to classes, as well as corresponding textbook sections (approx. 1 hour).
- Follow-up: Review class content, and respond to quizzes posted on the student portal after class (approx. 1 hour).