

Japan- Boom and Bust: Culture, Economics, and Social Concerns

Instructor: Barry K. Wyatt, Director of Kozmoz International

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Teaching Assistant: Caston Wyatt, Director of Kozmoz International Japan

Location: Kyoto Center 〒612-8057 59-2 Hirano-cho Fushimi-ku Kyoto Japan.

Main Residence Location: 〒612-0847 7-14 Rokutai-cho Okamedani Fukakusa
Fushimi-ku Kyoto Japan -Note: you may be housed in an auxiliary location

Required Reading: All participants will be required to purchase and read:
The Greatest Superstition by Larkin Rose (available online as ebook)

Optional readings:

- 1- Private Governance- Creating Order in Economic and Social Life Edward Stringham
- 2- Living Economics- Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow Peter J. Boettke
- 3- Priceless- Curing the Healthcare Crisis John C. Goodman
- 4- The Problem of Political Authority Michael Huemer
- 5- Propaganda by Edward Bernays
- 6- The Fountainhead or Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand
- 7- Tragedy and Hope Carrol Quigley
- 8- Tragedy and Hope 101: Illusion of Justice, Freedom, and Democracy by Joseph Plummer (an excellent condensation and commentary of Tragedy and Hope)

Japan Specific Readings:

- 1- Silence by Shusaku Endo -excellent to understand Japanese culture
- 2- Princes of the Yen Richard Werner -excellent to understand Japanese economy
- 3- The Making of Modern Japan 2nd Ed. by Kenneth B. Pyle
- 4- In the Realm of the Dying Emperor: Japan at Century's End by Norma Fields
- 5- Shinto and State: 1868-1988 by Helen Hardacre

*The Making of Modern Japan is a suggested reading for those who are unfamiliar with the chronology of Japanese history after 1600. This knowledge can be very helpful in helping participants prepare for and understand the environment that they will find themselves in. Participants lacking in this knowledge base should read this text before arriving in Kyoto. In the case of non-native English speakers, it may be advised to complete the reading before beginning your internship. **No exceptions will be made for non native English speakers.** The reading assignments will be even more relevant in helping you function in the level of English required.

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Goals of the Internship:

The goal of this course is to provide an understanding of social enterprise through a window into Japanese culture that is not normally available to students because few outsiders have the opportunity to interact outside of academia and areas reserved for foreigners. Japan is the third largest economy in the world, is the source of a large amount of pop-culture for Asia and the world with a unique culture and set of values with layers of meaning and history. This course seeks to both provide participants with an inside look at social enterprise and the causes of socio-economic maladies that create a need for economic activism. Students have the opportunity to interact in various areas of Japanese society, highlighting some of the most confounding areas of Japanese culture and history in order to unpack the paradox that is Japan. Students will combine a traditional academic process with fieldwork in the Kozmoz Kansai Food Bank serving the economically challenged as well as the Kozmoz Language Center serving a diverse student body, during their internship giving students a unique educational experience and unique insight into Japanese culture.

Internship Expectations:

During their time with Kozmoz Japan participants will be given daily tasks and side projects to work on. These will change and evolve rapidly and participants are asked to be flexible and independent in completing their tasks. Tasks will vary based on Japanese skill, experience and knowledge base.

Some examples of such tasks and activities include but are not limited to:

Preparing various documents for Kozmoz

Preparing advertisements, notices and media for Kozmoz.

Participating in training and teaching English to Children and Adults. Preparing and serving menu items for the Kozmoz Cafe

Retrieving, sorting, repacking and distributing foodstocks to food bank recipients

Helping to prepare for and run charitable events sponsored by Kozmo

Assisting with recruiting activities.

Assisting with planning sessions for future Japan and international programs.

Preparing and editing media for Kozmoz promotion or community education.

Complete minimum reading assignments.

Assisting with construction projects.

Cleaning and maintenance of Kozmoz facilities.

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During participant's time interning with Kozmoz, they will be expected to keep an open mind and be willing to accept and engage with alternative interpretations of economics and Japanese culture. Participants will be expected to take the material, ideas, opinions, and views from the reading they will be doing and apply it to their experiences and work at Kozmoz. Participants will have to face some of the more problematic and difficult issues that plague Japan and the world today, especially poverty and its causes. Participants will be given a chance to witness some empirical examples of the topics being discussed in their readings. In these experiences participants will gain a unique perspective on Japan and the world more generally.

Activity Times:

Participants will intern generally 5 days a week, but may be asked to skip a day off in the case of changes in shipment schedules for perishable food products or sickness or shortage of staff. Shift times will vary depending on the days logistics including being given the day off or working for more than 8 hours. Participants are expected to pursue research and reading outside of scheduled activity time. In the case of having a day off rescheduled, every effort will be made to provide a makeup day but may be unable due to logistics and staffing.

Additional Course Activities:

In addition to interning in the learning center, food bank and cafe and completing assigned tasks for Kozmoz, Participants will be expected to read the required readings in preparation for twice weekly morning meetings with Director Wyatt and/or the TA for the course. Some meetings will include media highlighting economics, history, and socio-economic activism. In the case of a meeting being held on the participants "day off", the participant will still be expected to attend the meeting unless prior arrangement was made with the T/A or Director. Participants may request several days off in a row in order to take a short trip but the request will be granted at the discretion of the Director based on logistic requirements at the activity center.