

**Graduate School of Economics  
Kobe University**

**Economics Readings in English (2E402)  
Semester 2, 2016  
Syllabus**

**Instructor**

Clinton Watkins  
Office: III 406

Office hours: By appointment

**Class Times and Room**

- Tuesday, Period 3 (13:20 - 14:50) in the Academia Building, Room 502

**Objectives**

This course aims to develop your ability and confidence to comprehend and discuss economics in English. The course focuses on discussing economics related topics, not teaching English language. You are required to read, present and discuss various economics topics in English.

**Plan**

The class involves presentation and discussion of the economics topics explained in English on the website <http://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/economics>. The presentation topics are listed on the following pages, and will be allocated to individual students in the first class. We need four volunteers for presentations in the second session, and I will create a schedule for the presentations for the third session onward. You will need to form groups of 3-4 people for the pre-presentation group discussion.

The class format from the second session onward will be as follows:

1. **Preparation:** Before the lecture, everyone should read the topics that will be presented on the day, and think about a question to ask in the Q&A session after the presentation.
2. **Pre-presentation group discussion:** Group discussion in English to make sure everyone is familiar with the topic to be presented, and to think about questions to ask the presenter after his or her presentation (5-10 minutes).
3. **Individual presentation:** The topic presenter explains the topic to the class in English (5-10 minutes). Create handouts and/or use the blackboard or whiteboard to support your explanation when you are doing the presentation. Refer to recent economic or financial developments (or data) in Japan or globally from the English language media for real world examples of the concepts you present, if possible.
4. **Question and answer** session in English (5 minutes)

5. **Summary** or explanation by the instructor (5 minutes)

We will do about four rounds of presentations each week.

**Evaluation**

- In-class presentations in English on assigned economics topics (60%).
  - You will earn points for each presentation you give.
- Contribution to class discussion on presentations by asking or answering relevant questions in English on the presented topics (30%).
  - You will earn one point for asking a question and for making a constructive comment or contribution to the discussion.
- Attendance (10%)

**Preparation**

Review English skills and economics terminology. Review recent global economic developments discussed in the English language business and financial media.

**References**

English language references for economic and financial news include:

- [www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com)
- [www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com)
- [www.finance.yahoo.com](http://www.finance.yahoo.com)
- [www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com) (requires a subscription, but you can see some content for free, or refer to the magazine in the library)