

Course ID Number: REC5630

Course Title: Contemporary Japanese Politics

No. of Credits: 2

Graduate School of International Relations
International University of Japan

Term: Fall 2011

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Course Introduction

This course is designed to give students a general introduction to the political system of Japan. The contents of the course will include the principles of political culture, political institutions and public policymaking. The format of the course will be lecture and discussion. As the course is an introductory course, most class time will be given to lecture. The most important goal, however, is to gain the basic understanding of the current politics. Therefore, there will also be much discussion of both the readings and of contemporary events. A Friday, most likely in November, may be set aside for a field trip to Tokyo, visiting the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Headquarters of the Liberal Democratic Party and the Democratic Party, and the Diet. This depends on consent of the class. Another field trip may be organized to learn about the local government.

CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE POLITICS

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Organization: This course is lecture-based class, but the instructor encourages students to participate discussion in order to find out more details of the contents.

Course Grade: The course grade will be based on final exam (60%), one oral presentation (20%), and class attendance and participation in classroom discussions (20%) will account for the remainder of the course grade. In order to pass the class, you need to get at least 50 out of 100 points.

Policies: The students are expected to read all the reading materials and attend all the classes. One week absence would result in the deduction of 4 points. The adjustment can be made for the following two cases: sickness and family emergency. If you miss 40 percent of class without reasonable causes, you fail to pass.

Materials: The materials are listed in the following course outline for each week. Students need not to purchase any book, but the main textbook is *Introduction to Japanese Politics* by Louis D. Hayes (2009), a good book to own.

CLASS OUTLINE

Week One: Historical Review

A brief review of the historical development of the political system from the beginning of the Feudal System (12th Century) through Edo and Meiji Period, to the end of WWII with emphasis on the prewar problems in the development of democracy.

Required: Hayes, 11-28; Reischauer, 113-217.
Suggested: Beasley, 1-208.

Week Two: Occupation and Constitution

This week we will examine the occupation reforms, including the enactment of the current Constitution, which established the structure of the government and institutionalized democracy.

Required: Government Section, SCAP, 82-144; Hayes, 29-44.
Suggested: Schaller, all.

Week Three: Political Parties and the Diet

The role of political parties in Japan, paying special attention to the reasons why the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) ruled for almost 40 years, intra-party politics within the LDP and the evolution of parties under the present coalition governments.

Required: Hayes, 67-100.

Suggested: Curtis, Chaps 1-4; Hrebenar, all.

Week Four: Bureaucracy

One of the major characteristics of Japanese politics is the strong bureaucracy. We will look at the role of civil servants in postwar Japan and the current arguments in administrative reform. Students are assigned to report on an individual ministry or agency of the central government.

Required: Woronoff, 106-149; Jain, 92-107.

Suggested: Johnson, MITI, all.

Week Five: The Big Business and Other Interest Groups

Big Businesses in Japan have been a major player in domestic political process. The coexistence of powerful business organizations and conservative political culture produced close working relations between the two.

Required: Vogel ed., 33-70; Woronoff, 150-74; Richardson, 174-199.

Suggested: Calder, all.

Week Six: Policymaking Process

We will examine how the political actors discussed in the previous classes interact for the policy outcomes. We will compare the arguments of pluralism and corporatism.

Required: Richardson, 95-173; Shinoda's *Asian Survey* article (1998), and Jain, 45-74.

Week Seven: Cabinet and the Prime Minister

Although the power of the bureaucracy is strong, the executive authority constitutionally belongs to the Cabinet. This week, we will examine the constraints and obstacles which the Cabinet faces and the leadership of the prime ministers. We will also look into the current arguments of the strengthening the prime minister's office.

Students are assigned to report on an individual prime minister: how strong their leadership was and how they overcome the political obstacle they faced.

Required: Shinoda (2000), Chap. 1; Shinoda (2005)

Suggested: Shinoda (2000), chaps. 2-5; Hayao, all.

Week Eight: Electoral System and Local Politics

In this section we will examine the Japanese electoral system, how it effects the way in which candidates campaign, the parties' campaign strategies in general and the voting behavior of the Japanese public. We also look at the local politics.

Required: Hayes, 118-42; Jain, 11-44, 206-39.

Suggested: Reed, all.

Week Nine: Foreign Policy

This week we will cover Japan's foreign policy and Japan's role in the post-cold war international relations system..

Required: Hayes, 227-74.

Suggested: Inoguchi, all; Mochizuki, all. Green, all.

Week Ten: Media and Public Opinion and Final Exam

The final section of the course is lecture on the role of public opinion and the media on politics. Second Part of this day will be for final exam.

Required: Shinoda (2007)

Required and Suggested Texts on Closed Reserve:

- Beasley, W.G. *The Rise of Modern Japan*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990.
- Calder, Kent. *Crisis and Compensation*. Princeton: Princeton U. Press, 1989.
- Curtis, Gerald. *The Japanese Way of Politics*. New York: Columbia U. Press, 1988.
- Gaunter, Alisa, ed. *Handbook of Japanese Politics*, London: Routledge, April 2011.
- Government Section, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. *Political Reorientation of Japan*. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1949.
- Green, Michael. *Japan's Reluctant Realism*. Palgrave, 2001.
- Hayao, Kenji. *The Japanese Prime Minister and Public Policy*. Pittsburgh: U. of Pittsburgh, 1994.
- Hayes, Louis D. *Introduction to Japanese Politics*. 5th ed. New York: M.E.Sharpe, 2009.
- Hrebennar, Ronald J. *The Japanese Party System*. 2nd ed. Boulder: Westview, 1992.
- Inoguchi, Takashi. *Japan's International Relations*. London: Pinter, 1991.
- Jain, Punendra and Takashi Inoguchi, eds. *Japanese Politics Today: Beyond Karaoke Democracy?* New York: St. Martins Press, 1997.
- Johnson, Chalmers. *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*. Stanford: Stanford U. Press, 1982.
- Kernell, Samuel, ed. *Parallel Politics*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings, 1991.
- Koh, B.C. *Japan's Administrative Elite*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1989.
- Mochizuki, Mike ed. *Toward a True Alliance*. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institute, 1997.
- Reed, Steven. *Japanese Prefectures and Policy Making*. Pittsburgh: U. of Pittsburgh, 1989.
- Reischauer, Edwin O. *Japan: The Story of a Nation*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1974.
- Richardson, Bradley. *Japanese Democracy: Power, Coordination, and Performance*. Yale Univ. Press, 1997.
- Schaller, Michael. *The American Occupation of Japan*. New York: Oxford U. Press, 1985.
- Shinoda, Tomohito. "Becoming More Realistic in the Post-Cold War: Japan's Changing Media and Public Opinion on National Security," *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 8, No.2, Fall 2007: pp.171-190.
- _____. "Japan's Cabinet Secretariat and Its Emergence As Core Executive," *Asian Survey*, vol. 45, No.5, September/October 2005: pp.800-821.
- _____. "Japan's Decision Making Under the Coalition Governments." *Asian Survey* (July 1998).
- _____. *Koizumi Diplomacy: Japan's Kantei Approach in Foreign and Defense Affairs*, University of Washington Press, 2007.
- _____. *Leading Japan: The Role of the Prime Minister*. Praeger Publishing, 2000.
- J.A.A. Stockwin. *Governing Japan*. New York: Blackwell, 1999.
- Van Wolferen, Karel. *The Enigma of Japanese Power*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989.
- Vogel, Ezra. ed. *Modern Japanese Organization and Decision-Making*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1975.
- Woronoff, Jon. *Politics the Japanese Way*. Houndmills: MacMillian Press, 1986.
- Yamamura, Kozo and Yasukichi Yasuba, eds., *The Political Economy of Japan I: The Domestic Transformation*. Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press, 1987.