

Japanese Politics and Political Economy

Section 1

Instructor/Title	Dr. Jonson N. Porteux (Associate Professor)
Office/Building	2430
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【Course Outline / Description】

This course serves as an introduction to Japanese politics, primarily after WWII. As this course has no formal prerequisites, the first section of the semester will be a sort of theory “bootcamp” so as to place everyone in the class on the same footing. Following the theory section, we will first be focusing on explaining the rise of the LDP, its long-term dominance, ultimate collapse, and re-emergence as the most influential political party in Japan. Second, we will explore the rise of Japan’s post-war miracle economy and subsequent decline. Third, we will address Japan’s foreign policy. Fourth we will look at the evolution of the LDP’s particular brand of post-reform politics and power games as played out in present day Japan. Finally, we will end the course by examining a number of key on-going issues in Japan, including immigration, nationalism, and crime.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

Upon completing this class, students should be able to:

- Analyze and explain the key features of Japanese Politics and Public Policy
- Identify the principal actors, institutions, structures, and norms that Japanese politics
- Engage in basic research tasks using online databases and other resources.
- Construct arguments, using data/evidence appropriately.

Furthermore, this course is designed to help students:

- Develop thinking, learning and communication skills.
- Develop skills in identifying, accessing and evaluating sources of information;

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

NOTE: Cells which are shaded will be held “asynchronous,” where non-shaded cells are “synchronous” classes.

Lecture 1 Monday Aug 31 st	Course Introduction	- No scheduled readings
Lecture 2	Theoretical Background: State-Development I	- Readings CGG Ch. 3
Lecture 3	Theoretical Background: State-Development II	- Readings CGG Ch. 4
Lecture 4	Theoretical Background: Democratization I	- Inglehart and Welzel (2008)
Lecture 5	Theoretical Background:	- Morrow Ch. 14 (Selectorate Theory)

	Democratization II	
Lecture 6	Theoretical Background: Democratization III	- Readings TBA - Midterm Review Guide Handed Out
Lecture 7	Midterm I Review	- No additional readings
Lecture 8	Midterm I Exam	- “take-home” exam
Lecture 9	Pre-War to Post-War I	- Taisho Democracy
Lecture 10	Pre-War to Post-War I	- Dower Ch. 1
Lecture 11	Macro-Economic Structure of Japan I	- Readings: Okimoto and Rohlen, Ch. 10-14, 17
Lecture 12	Micro-Economic Structure of Japan	- Readings: Okimoto and Rohlen, pg. 101-148
Lecture 13	Cultural Explanations for Growth	- Readings: Okimoto and Rohlen, Ch. 3, 9, 20, 38, 39
Lecture 14	Origins of the LDP	- Readings: Kohno, pg. 49-90; Pempel, Ch. 3
Lecture 15	Electoral Foundation of the LDP: I	- Readings: Kohno, pg. 91-134
Lecture 16	Electoral Foundations of the LDP: II	- Readings: Richardson, Ch. 2, 3; Midterm I Exam Review Guide Handed Out
Lecture 17	Midterm II Exam II Review	- Group Work; No Readings
Lecture 18	Midterm II Exam	- “take-home” exam
Lecture 19 Monday Nov. 2 nd	The Collapse of the LDP: I	- Readings: Richardson, Ch. 4
Lecture 20	The Collapse of the LDP: II	- Readings: Richardson, Ch. 4
Lecture 21	Economic Miracle and Collapse I	- No readings (Econ 101)
Lecture 22	Economic Miracle and Collapse II	- Horiuchi et al; Krugman
Lecture 23	Economic Miracle and Collapse III	- Group work
Lecture 24	Foreign Policy I	- Readings: Samuels Ch. 1, 2
Lecture 25	Foreign Policy II	- Readings: Pempel Ch. 6
Lecture 26	Immigration and Nationalism	- Readings: No Scheduled Readings
Lecture 27	Fukushima and Beyond	- Readings TBA
Lecture 28	Course Wrap Up: Final Thoughts	- Final exam review guide handed out
Lecture 29	Final Exam Review	- Final Exam Review
Lecture 30	Final Exam	- Final Exam

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

- The instructor will provide all reading and course materials

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Midterm I: 20%

Midterm II: 30%

Final Exam: 40%

Participation: 10%

Section 5

【Additional Information】

****SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH NOTICE.**

IN THIS COURSE, STUDENTS LEARN BY READING AND REFLECTING ON THE ASSIGNED TEXTS, LISTENING TO THE PROFESSOR'S LECTURES, PARTICIPATING IN CLASS DISCUSSION, PARTICIPATING IN FORMAL DEBATES, AND ASKING QUESTIONS--LOTS OF QUESTIONS. STUDENTS CAN EXPECT 8 TO 10 HOURS OF PREPARATION (READING, REFLECTING, PREPARING WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS, REVIEWING NOTES, PREPARING FOR TESTS, ETC.) PER WEEK IN ADDITION TO THE 3 HOUR A WEEK "IN-CLASS" SESSIONS.