

Japanese Politics and Political Economy

Section 1

Instructor/Title	Dr. Jonson N. Porteux (Associate Professor)
Office/Building	2430
Office Hours	Via e-mail and/or by appointment (via Zoom)
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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	Course Introduction	- No scheduled readings
Lecture 2	Theoretical Background: State-Development	- Readings CGG Ch. 3; 4
Lecture 3	Theoretical Background: State-Development (In-Class Lecture)	- In-Class Lecture
Lecture 4	Theoretical Background: Democratization	- Inglehart and Welzel (2008) - Morrow Ch. 14 (Selectorate Theory)

Lecture 5	Theoretical Background: Democratization; (In-Class Lecture)	- Midterm Exam Review Guide handed out
Lecture 6	Midterm Study	- Review previous readings; slides - Please send at least two questions via e-mail 24 hours before class.
Lecture 7	In-class lecture (Midterm I Review)	- No additional readings**
Lecture 8	Pre-War to Post-War I	- “take-home” exam - Taisho Democracy - Dower Ch. 1
Lecture 9	Pre-War to Post-War I (In-class lecture)	
Lecture 10	Economic Structure of Japan	- Readings: Okimoto and Rohlen, Ch. 10-14, 17; pg. 101-148
Lecture 11	Economic Structure of Japan (In-class lecture)	
Lecture 12	Cultural Explanations for Growth	Readings: - Okimoto and Rohlen, Ch. 3, 9, 20, 38, 39 - Kohno, pg. 49-90 - Pempel Ch. 3
Lecture 13	Cultural Explanations for Growth (In-class lecture)	
Lecture 14	Origins and foundation of the LDP	- Readings: Kohno, pg. 49-90; Pempel, Ch. 3 - Kohno, pg. 91-134 - Readings: Richardson, Ch. 2, 3;
Lecture 15	Origins and foundation of the LDP (In-class lecture)	
Lecture 16	Midterm Study	- Readings: Richardson, Ch. 2, 3; - Midterm I Exam Review Guide Handed Out - Please send at least two questions via e-mail 24 hours before class.
Lecture 17	Midterm II Exam II Review	
Lecture 18	Midterm II Exam	- “take-home” exam - Readings: Richardson, Ch. 4
Lecture 19 Monday Nov. 2 nd	The Collapse of the LDP: I (In-class lecture)	
Lecture 20	Economic Miracle and Collapse	- No readings (Econ 101)
Lecture 21	Economic Miracle and Collapse I (In-class lecture)	
Lecture 22	Economic Miracle and Collapse II	- Horiuchi et al; - Krugman (The Myth of East Asia’s Miracle)

Lecture 23	Economic Miracle and Collapse (In-class lecture)	- Group work
Lecture 24	Foreign Policy	- Readings: Samuels Ch. 1, 2 - Pempel Ch. 6
Lecture 25	Foreign Policy (In-Class lecture)	
Lecture 26	Immigration and Nationalism	- Readings: No Scheduled Readings
Lecture 27	Immigration and Nationalism (In-Class lecture)	- Final exam review guide handed out -
Lecture 28	Course Wrap Up: Final Thoughts	- Student meetings as needed
Lecture 29	Final Exam	- Final Exam Review
Lecture 30	Final Exam	- Final Exam (Take Home)

【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.