

# **JAPANESE POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY FROM A THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE**

**(INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS E)**

**ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM**

**SPRING SEMESTER (2019)**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Jonson N. Porteux

### **Course Description**

This course serves as an upper-level introduction to Japanese politics, primarily after WWII. In particular, we will first be focusing on explaining the rise of the LDP, its long-term dominance, ultimate collapse, and re-emergence as the most dominate 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 complex set of foreign policy arrangements and on-going battle over constitutional reform. Fourth, we will look at the evolution of Abe Shinzo`s particular brand of politics and power games as played out in present day Japan. Finally, we will end the course by examining the interesting world of collusion between Japanese sports, organized crime, and politically-motivated specialists in violence.

## **Course Objectives**

Upon completing this class, students should be able to:

- Analyze and explain the key features of Japanese political and public policy
- Identify the principal actors, institutions, structures, and norms that shape open or closed economic policies
- 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;
- Promote curiosity and life-long learning.

## **Instruction to Students**

In this course, students learn by reading and reflecting on the assigned texts, listening to the instructor's lectures, participating in class discussion, participating in formal debates, and asking questions--lots of questions. This class meets 3 hours a week. Students can expect 6 to 8 hours of preparation (reading, reflecting, preparing written assignments, reviewing notes, preparing for tests, etc.) per week.

## **Grading Criteria**

Midterm I:	20%
Midterm II:	30%
Final Exam:	40%
Participation:	10%

**Textbooks:**

The instructor will provide all reading and course materials

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

<b>NO.</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READINGS</b>
1	TBA	Course Introduction	No scheduled readings ; In-class survey
2	TBA	In-Class Diagnostic Exam	- Readings: - Oatley, Chapter 1 - Suggested readings: Lake, David, 2006. International Political Economy: A Maturing Inter-discipline (pp 757-776)
3	TBA	Theoretical Background: State-Development	- TBA
4	TBA	Tokugawa and Modern Japan	- TBA
5	TBA	Pre-War to Post-War	- TBA
6	TBA	Documentary Part I	- The Emperor`s Naked Army Marches On
7	TBA	Documentary Part II	- The Emperor`s Naked Army Marches On
8	TBA	Macro-Economic Structure of Japan	- Readings: Okimoto and Rohlen, Ch. 10-14, 17
9	TUE SEPT 27 <sup>TH</sup>	In-class group work	- review Lecture 8`s readings
10	TBA	Micro-Economic Structure of Japan	- Readings: Okimoto and Rohlen, pg. 101-148
11	TBA	Cultural Explanations for Growth	- Readings: Okimoto and Rohlen, Ch. 3, 9, 20, 38, 39
12	TBA	In-class group work	- Review Lecture 10 and 11 readings

13	TBA	Origins of the LDP	- Readings: Kohno, pg. 49-90; Pempel, Ch. 3
<b>14</b>	TBA	Electoral Foundation of the LDP: I	- Readings: Kohno, pg. 91-134
<b>15</b>	TBA	Electoral Foundations of the LDP: II	- Readings: Richardson, Ch. 2, 3; Midterm I Exam Review Guide Handed Out
16	TBA	Midterm Exam I Review	- Group Work; No Readings
17	TBA	Midterm Exam I	- In-class exam
18	TBA	Post-Exam Exercise	- Group work; no scheduled readings
19	TBA	The Collapse of the LDP: I	- Readings: Richardson, Ch. 4
20	TBA	The Collapse of the LDP: II	- Readings: TBA
21	TBA	Economic Miracle and Collapse	- Horiuchi et al; Krugman
22	TBA	Economic Miracle and Collapse II	- Group Work
23	TBA	Foreign Policy I	- Readings: TBA
24	TBA	Foreign Policy II	- Readings: TBA
25	TBA	Nationalism and Immigration	- Readings: TBA
26	TBA	Midterm II Review	- Group work; no readings
27	TBA	Midterm II	- In-class Midterm II
<b>28</b>	TBA	Course Wrap Up: Final Thoughts ; Course Evaluations	- Readings: TBA - Final exam review guide handed out
<b>29</b>	TBA	Final Exam Review	- Review previously assigned readings
<b>30</b>	TBA	Final Exam	- In-class final exam

NOTES:

**\*\*UNEXCUSED ABSENCES: -2.5% FROM COURSE GRADE; TARDY: -1.25% FROM COURSE GRADE**

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