

Japanese Politics and Public Policy from a Theoretical Perspective

Section 1

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【Course Outline / Description】

This course serves as an 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 dominant 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 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】

Lecture 1	Course Introduction	- No scheduled readings
Lecture 2	Theoretical Background: State-Development I	- Readings TBA
Lecture 3	Theoretical Background: State-Development II	- Readings TBA
Lecture 4	Theoretical Background: Democratization	- Inglehart and Welzel (2008)
Lecture 5	Tokugawa to Modern Japan	- Taisho Democracy
Lecture 6	Pre-War to Post-War I	- Readings TBA
Lecture 7	Pre-War to Post-War II	- Group Work
Lecture 8	Macro-Economic Structure of Japan I	- Readings: Okimoto and Rohlen, Ch. 10-14, 17
Lecture 9	Micro-Economic Structure of Japan	- Readings: Okimoto and Rohlen, pg. 101-148
Lecture 10	In-class group work	- Review lectures 8 and 9

Lecture 11	Cultural Explanations for Growth	- Readings: Okimoto and Rohlen, Ch. 3, 9, 20, 38, 39
Lecture 12	Origins of the LDP	- Readings: Kohno, pg. 49-90; Pempel, Ch. 3
Lecture 13	Electoral Foundation of the LDP: I	- Readings: Kohno, pg. 91-134
Lecture 14	Electoral Foundations of the LDP: II	- Readings: Richardson, Ch. 2, 3; Midterm I Exam Review Guide Handed Out
Lecture 15	Midterm Exam I Review	- Group Work; No Readings
Lecture 16	The Collapse of the LDP: I	- Readings: Richardson, Ch. 4
Lecture 17	In-class group work	- Previous readings
Lecture 18	The Collapse of the LDP: II	- Readings: Richardson, Ch. 4
Lecture 19	Economic Miracle and Collapse I	- No readings (Econ 101)
Lecture 20	Economic Miracle and Collapse II	- Horiuchi et al; Krugman
Lecture 21	Economic Miracle and Collapse III	- Group work
Lecture 22	Foreign Policy I	- Readings: Samuels Ch. 1, 2
Lecture 23	Foreign Policy II	- Readings: Pempel Ch. 6
Lecture 24	Immigration and Nationalism I	- Readings: No Scheduled Readings
Lecture 25	Fukushima and Beyond	- Readings TBA
Lecture 26	Midterm Exam II Review	- Group Work; No Readings
Lecture 27	In-Class Midterm Exam	- In-Class Midterm Exam
Lecture 28	Course Wrap Up: Final Thoughts; Course Evaluations	- Readings: TBA - Final exam review guide handed out
Lecture 29	Final Exam Review	- Final Exam Review
Lecture 30	Final Exam	- In-Class 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】

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

**SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH NOTICE.