

Japanese Politics and Public Policy from a Theoretical Perspective

**Section 1**

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Office/Building	2430
Office Hours	TBA

**【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, crime, and Japan’s response to COVID from a comparative perspective.

**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 of Japanese politics
- Engage in basic research tasks using online databases and use of 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】**

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Lecture 1	Course Introduction	- No scheduled readings
Lecture 2	Snapshot of Japanese Politics	- Japan Chapter (Kesselman et al)
Lecture 3	Theoretical Background: State-Development I	- CGG Ch. 3 & 4
Lecture 4	Theoretical Background: State Development II	- CGG Ch. 3 & 4 Continued
Lecture 5	Theoretical Background: Democratization	- Morrow Ch. 14 (Selectorate Theory)**
Lecture 6	Theoretical Background: Democratization	- Inglehart and Wezel (2008) - Midterm Review Guide handed out

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Lecture 7	Discussion continued; Midterm Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review slides/information to date</li> <li>- Review midterm guide and answers to the motivating questions.</li> <li>- In class discussion</li> </ul>
Lecture 8	Discussion continued; MT 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In Class Midterm</li> <li>- Midterm includes multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer.</li> </ul>
Lecture 9	Pre-War to Post-War I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taisho Democracy</li> <li>- Dower Ch. 1</li> </ul>
Lecture 10	Pre-War to Post-War II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taisho Democracy (continued)</li> <li>- Dower Ch. 1</li> </ul>
Lecture 11	Origins and foundation of the LDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Readings: Kohno, pg. 49-90; Pempel, Ch. 3</li> <li>- Kohno, pg. 91-134</li> <li>- Readings: Richardson, Ch. 2, 3;</li> </ul>
Lecture 12	Origins and foundation of the LDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No additional readings</li> <li>- McElwain (2008)</li> </ul>
Lecture 13	The Collapse of the LDP: I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Readings: Richardson, Ch. 4</li> </ul>
Lecture 14	The Collapse of the LDP: II	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reed (2021): Patronage and Predominance: How the LDP Maintains Its Hold on Power</li> </ul>
Lecture 15	Local Government in Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Readings: TBA</li> </ul>
Lecture 16	Economic Miracle and Collapse I	No Readings (Econ 101)
Lecture 17	Economic Miracle and Collapse II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Readings: Okimoto and Rohlen, Ch. 10-14, 17; pg. 101-148</li> </ul>
Lecture 18	Economic Miracle and Collapse III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Krugman</li> <li>- Horiuchi et al</li> </ul>
Lecture 19	Discussion continued; Midterm Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No additional readings</li> <li>- Group Work/in-class discussion</li> </ul>
Lecture 20	Discussion continued; MT II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No additional readings</li> <li>- Midterm II is comprehensive, and includes a mix of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and short answer.</li> </ul>
Lecture 21	Documentary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On</li> </ul>
Lecture 22	Foreign Policy I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Readings: Samuels Ch. 1, 2</li> <li>- Pempel Ch. 6</li> </ul>
Lecture 23	Foreign Policy II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No additional readings</li> </ul>
Lecture 24	Immigration and Nationalism I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- McNeil "Life in Japan"</li> </ul>
Lecture 25	Immigration and Nationalism II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documentary</li> </ul>
Lecture 26	Crime in Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Milhaupt and West</li> </ul>

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Lecture 27	Fukushima and Response to COVID	Kushida 2014 (The Fukushima Nuclear Disaster and the DPJ: Leadership, Structures, and Information Challenges During the Crisis) -
Lecture 28	Is Japan`s Democracy in Retreat? (Part I)	- Japan Brief 2020
Lecture 29	Is Japan`s Democracy in Retreat? (Part II)	- No additional materials
Lecture 30	Final thoughts on course/Final Exam Review	- Please review final exam review guide and prepare answers to the provided motivating questions. - In class group work/discussion

### 【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/SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH NOTICE. PLEASE BE FLEXIBLE.**

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.

**\*\*TWO "FREE" UNEXCUSED ABSENCES. ADDITIONAL ABSENCES WILL REDUCE YOUR OVERALL SCORE BY 2.5%. SLEEPING IN CLASS COUNTS AS AN ABSENCE.**