

# **Government/East Asian Studies 296: Introduction to Japanese Politics**

Spring 2012  
Class: Tuesday and Thursday 2:40-4  
Office Hours: Wed: 1:00-2:30  
                  Thurs. 11:00-12:00

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## ***Overview***

This is an upper-division course on Japanese Politics. You do not have to know anything about Japan, and some background in political science would be helpful but is not necessary. The course is designed to give you a general understanding about the main features of contemporary Japanese politics and a more specialized understanding of a topic of your choice.

While the focus of this course is Japan, an important theme will be international comparison. We will be investigating the dynamics of Japan's political institutions, but we will be doing so with an eye toward broader comparisons with other advanced industrialized countries. Therefore, we will be asking questions like: "How is Japan different from other industrialized countries?" "How is Japan similar?" "Is Japan becoming more or less like other countries?"

Another theme that will be emphasized is change over time. This course is centered on different areas of policymaking, and in each case we will be examining the ways that political, economic, and social actors interact to construct policy. In each issue area we will be discussing how the policymaking process and the policy itself has changed over time. So, we will also be asking questions like: "How has Japan's foreign policy changed over time?" "What is the importance of international forces on Japanese policy?" "What domestic actors drive policy change?"

Japanese politics is experiencing a period of dramatic institutional and cultural change. Long characterized by the dominance of elite politics, Japanese citizens are starting to make their voices heard in a myriad of ways. This course will encounter the elite level of politics, but focus more especially on the exceptional dynamism occurring "outside the center" of politics in Japan in a variety of policy areas.

## ***Objectives***

There are five primary learning goals for this class:

- Understand how government and politics works in Japan
- Develop a comparative perspective when analyzing politics around the world
- Expand independent research skills
- Improve oral presentation skills
- Improve academic writing skills

## ***Expectations***

This is an upper-division seminar, so I expect a high level of student involvement in the course. The course will involve in-class discussions of the reading, a take home midterm, and an independent research paper with an oral presentation about that research. I expect each student to come prepared and to participate actively in class discussions.

## ***Grading***

There are four components of your final grade: participation, quizzes, a take-home midterm exam, and a final research paper and presentation. This is a writing intensive course, and we will be focusing on writing throughout the course and will put considerable emphasis on improving writing skills.

### Participation:

Students are expected to come prepared to class each session. This means having read and thought about the reading material. The success of this course depends in large part on student willingness to engage in the material and push our conversations up to a higher level. As part of the participation grade, students will also be required to contribute to a group presentation about “Japan in the news” one time during the semester.

### Quizzes:

There will be 5 “pop” quizzes over the course of the semester. The purpose of these quizzes is to make sure that you keep up with the reading and to help prepare you for the larger take-home assignments. I will count the top four quizzes. No make-up quizzes will be given.

Public event write ups: I highly encourage you to attend public events (lectures, films, exhibits, etc.) on campus that have to do with Japanese politics. If you go to one of these events and submit a one-page write up that summarizes the event/lecture (puzzle, argument, evidence) and asks three questions, I will grade your write up. Each public event write up will count as ½ a quiz, so if you write up two events, together they replace one quiz grade.

### Midterm Exam:

The midterm exam will cover the broad conceptual material in the first half of the course. It will be a take home exam. Grades will be reduced by 1/3 (e.g. from A- to B+) for every 24hrs or part thereof that the exam is late.

### Research Paper

You will complete an independent research paper on the topic of your choice related to Japanese politics. The paper must be 18-20 pages long and use at least ten different academic sources (books, journal articles, primary sources; other sources such as newspaper articles, magazine articles, blogs, etc. can be used but don't count toward the ten). About a month before the paper is due you will hand in a thesis statement, outline, and a preliminary bibliography. Throughout the semester you will be meeting in “research groups” and participate online with peers conducting research on similar topics in order to discuss your progress, share resources, and circulate drafts. In the final week you will present your research to your peers in an academic conference format of themed panels. You will also conduct peer reviews of rough drafts of the paper before handing it in at the beginning of exam week.

I am **not tolerant** of cheating or plagiarism. See the Student Handbook's section on the Honor System for an explanation of student responsibilities, the process involved in prosecuting an Honor System violation, and an essay on plagiarism. [http://www.wesleyan.edu/studenthandbook/3\\_honorsystem.ctt](http://www.wesleyan.edu/studenthandbook/3_honorsystem.ctt). I take the Honor System very seriously and will take any violations to the Honor Board. I will give you all the tools you need to do well on all of your assignments throughout the semester, so there should be

no need for unacceptable assistance. If you have questions about the appropriate way to use or cite a source, please do not hesitate to ask me **before** you hand in your paper.

Breakdown of grade:

The breakdown of the course grade is as follows:

Participation	
In class discussion	10%
Quizzes	10%
Take-home Midterm	35%
Final Project	
Oral Presentation	5%
Paper	40%

Grade Complaints:

Grade complaints will not be entertained until 24 hours after the exam/assignment is returned to you or more than two weeks after the exam/assignment has been returned. If you have a question concerning the grade you have received:

- 1) Wait 24 hours.
- 2) Write out an explanation of your question, including the reasons why you think your grade should be changed.
- 3) Submit your written complaint/question to me, and make an appointment to meet either during my office hours or at some other time.

***A Final Note***

I hope that you will look to me as a resource. I **highly encourage** you to take advantage of my office hours to stop by and talk about issues raised in the course, or other questions you have. I am very open to feedback about the course, and would appreciate you sharing any thoughts you might have for improvement *earlier* rather than later in the semester. I am very excited about this course on Japanese politics, and I hope that we can all have an interesting and productive semester!

*I reserve the right to change this syllabus without notice.*

## Reading Schedule

### **Section 1: History and Structure of Postwar Japanese Government and Politics**

- What are the origins of Japan's postwar political system?
- What is late development?
- How did it effect Japan's political development?
- Who governs Japan?

Jan. 26      *Introduction*

Jan. 31      *Origins of Modern Japanese Politics*  
Reischauer, Edwin O., and Albert M. Craig. 1989. *Japan: Tradition and Transformation*. Revised Edition ed. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company. 145-189.  
Mary Alice Haddad, *Building Democracy in Japan* (Intro, Ch. 3; proofs pdf)

Feb. 2      *The 1990s and the Remaking of the 1955-system*  
Gerald Curtis, *The Logic of Japanese Politics* (Columbia 1999), Ch. 1.  
Jeff Kingston. *Japan's Quiet Transformation* (Routledge, 2004). Ch. 1.

Feb. 7      *Executive Branch: Central Bureaucracy*  
Johnson, Chalmers. 1995. *Japan: Who Governs? The Rise of the Developmental State*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company. Ch 6.  
Margarita Estevez-Abe and Takako Hikotani. 2008. "Japan's New Extrovert Leaders: How Institutions Change Incentives and Capabilities." Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University. Working Paper.

Feb. 9      *Legislative Branch: Party System and the LDP*  
Krauss, Ellis and Robert Pekkanen, "Reforming the Liberal Democratic Party," chapter 2 in Sherry Martin and Gil Steel. 2008. *Democratic Reform in Japan: Assessing the Impact*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.  
Robin LeBlanc. "The Potential and Limits of Antiparty Electoral Movements in Local Politics" ch. 9 in Sherry Martin and Gil Steel. 2008. *Democratic Reform in Japan: Assessing the Impact*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.

### **Turn in Paper Topic—The "Puzzle" You Want to Answer—and List 3 sources.**

Feb. 14      *Judiciary*  
Haley, John O. 2007. "The Japanese Judiciary."  
Marshall, Jonathan. 2007. "Who Decides the Role of Courts, State or Society?" In *Emerging Concepts of Rights in Japanese Law*, eds. Harry N. Scheiber and Larent Mayali. Berkeley: Robbins Collection Publication. 135-157.

### **Japan in the News #1**

## Section 2: Voices from Outside of the Center

- What is the relationship between policymakers in Tokyo and those outside?
- How are policymakers held accountable?
- How are public voices heard?

### Feb. 16 *Local Government*

Jun Saito and Kyouhei Yamada, "Local Government in Japan," ch. 11 in Alisa Gaunder, *The Routledge Handbook of Japanese Politics* (Routledge 2010).  
Lawrence Repeta, "Changing the Guard in the Provinces: A New Platform for Hard Times," *Emerging Japanese Politics: New Tools for Citizen Participation*. Washington, DC: Japan Information Access Project, US-Japan Friendship Commission, 2001.

### Feb. 21 *Media and policymaking*

Krauss, Ellis. 2000. *Broadcasting Politics in Japan: NHK and Television News*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Ch. 8 and 9.  
Takao, Yasuo. 2007 *Reinventing Japan: From Merchant Nation to Civic Nation*. New York, NY: Palgrave. Ch. 6

### Feb. 23 *Civil Society*

Frank Schwartz, "Introduction: Recognizing Civil Society in Japan" in Frank Schwartz and Susan Pharr, *The State of Civil Society in Japan* (Cambridge, 2003).  
Takao, Yasuo. 2007. *Reinventing Japan: From Merchant Nation to Civic Nation*. New York: Palgrave. Ch. 4.

## **MIDTERM DUE FRIDAY February 24<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon**

## Section 2: International Politics—Trade and Security

- What is industrial policy?
- How did the economic miracle turn into an economic bubble?
- Where is the dynamism in Japan's economy today?
- What are the key issues in Japan's foreign policy? How have they changed?

### Feb. 28 *Economic Policy*

Chalmers Johnson, "The Developmental State: Odyssey of a Concept," ch. 2 in Meredith Woo-Cummings, *The Developmental State* (Cornell 1999).  
Ulrike Schaede, *Choose and Focus* (Cornell 2008) Intro and Ch. 1.

### Optional Reading:

- Walter Hatch and Kozo Yamamura, *Asia in Japan's Embrace* (Cambridge 1996).
- "Soft Balancing, Hedging, and Institutional Darwinism: The Economic-Security Nexus and East Asian Regionalism," *Journal of East Asian Studies* 10 (2010) 209-238.

- Mar. 1      *Security Policy*  
Richard Samuels. *Securing Japan: Tokyo's Grand Strategy and the Future of East Asia*  
Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2007. Chapter 1.  
Andrew Orros, "Democracy in Action in Japan's Foreign and Security Policy Making,"  
*Education about Asia* (Winter 2011) pp. 58-65.

Optional Reading:

- David Leheny. 2006. *Think Global, Fear Local: Sex, Violence, and Anxiety in Contemporary Japan*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP. Ch. 4.
- Peter Katzenstein. 1996. *Cultural Norms and National Security: Police and Military in Postwar Japan*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP.
- Keiko Hirata, "Whither the Developmental State? The Growing Role of NGOs in Japanese Aid Policymaking," *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice* 4 (2002): 165-88.
- David Arase, "Japan, the Active State?: Security Policy after 9-11," *Asian Survey*, 47:4 (Jul/Aug 2007). Pp. 560-583).

**Japan in the News #2**

- Mar. 6      *Coping with China*  
Akio Takahara, "A Japanese Perspective on China's Rise and the East Asian Order," in Robert Ross and Zu Feng eds. *China's Ascent* (Cornell 2008), pp. 218-237.  
Jeff Kingston, "Nanjing's Massacre Memorial: Renovating War Memory in Nanjing and Tokyo," *Japan Focus*. Aug. 25, 2008  
Eamonn Fingleton, "Can Anyone Compete with China? Lessons from Japan," *Japan Focus*. Sept. 23, 2005.

Optional Reading:

- Walter Hatch and Kozo Yamamura, *Asia in Japan's Embrace* (Cambridge 1996).
- Peter Katzenstein and Takashi Shiraishi edc. 1997. *Network Power: Japan and Asia*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP.
- Kent Calder and Ye Min. 2010. *The Making of Northeast Asia*. Stanford, CA: Stanford UP.

- Mar. 8      *Joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership: In-class simulation!*  
<http://www.ustr.gov/about-us/press-office/fact-sheets/2011/november/outlines-trans-pacific-partnership-agreement>  
Mireya Solis,

**Mar.9-26 SPRING BREAK!!!!**

**Section 3: Grassroots Democratization in Japan and Contemporary Politics**

- How did Japan Democratize?
- What is the relationship between citizens and the state?
- How has state-society relations changed over time?

Mar. 27 Haddad *Building Democracy in Japan*, Ch. 1, 2.

Optional Readings

- Ellis Krauss. 1974. *Japanese Radicals Revisited: Student Protest in Postwar Japan*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Ch. 7.
- Margaret McKean. 1980. "Political Socialization through Citizens' Movements." In Kurt Steiner, Ellis Krauss, and Scott Flanagan eds. *Political Opposition and Local Politics in Japan*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Pp. 228-273.

Mar. 29 *Traditional Civil Society Groups*  
Haddad *Building Democracy in Japan* ch. 4

Optional Readings

- Ben Ari, *Changing Japanese Suburbia: A Study of Two Present-Day Localities*. New York: Kegan Paul International, 1991. ch. 5.
- Ted Bestor. *Neighborhood Tokyo* (Stanford, 1989).
- Sheldon Garon, *Molding Japanese Minds* (Princeton 1997).

**Japan in the News #3**

Apr.3 *New-Style Civil Society Groups*  
Haddad *Building Democracy in Japan* ch. 5

Optional Readings

- Jennifer Chan ed. *Another Japan is Possible* (Stanford, 2008)
- Yasuo Takao, *Reinventing Japan* (Palgrave, 2007).
- Akihiro Ogawa, *The Failure of Civil Society?* (SUNY 2009).
- Isa Duce, *Civil Society and the Internet in Japan* (Routledge, 2007).

Apr. 5 *Religion and politics in East Asia; joint with EAST201: **Meet at FEAS***  
Anne Mette Fisker-Nielson, "Young Soka Gakkai Members as Political Actors" *JAWS Newsletter* (2008)

Rieko Kage, *Civic Engagement in Postwar Japan* (Cambridge 2011), ch. 6

Optional Reading

- Robert Weller, *Alternate Civilities: Democracy and Culture in China and Taiwan* (Colorado, 1999), ch. 5.
- See-Jae Lee, "Social Education for Environment and Environmental NGO in Korea" working paper.
- Adam Yuet Chau, "The Politics of Legitimation and the Revival of Popular Religion in Shaanbei, North-Central China" *Modern China* 31:2 (Apr. 2005) pp. 236-278.

#### **Section 4: Environmental Politics**

- What are the key characteristics of environmental politics in Japan
- How do citizens get involved?
- How has their involvement changed over time?

Apr. 10 Kim Reimann, “Building Global Civil Society from the Outside In?” in Frank Schwartz and Susan Pharr, *The State of Civil Society in Japan* (Cambridge, 2003), pp. 298-315.

##### Optional Reading:

- Jeffrey Broadbent. 1998. *Environmental Politics in Japan: Networks of Power and Protest*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Tiberghien, Yves and Miranda Schreurs. 2007. “High Noon in Japan: Embedded Symbolism and Post-2001 Kyoto Protocol Politics.” *Global Environmental Politics* 7 (4): 70-91.
- Frank Upham. 1976. “Litigation and Moral Consciousness in Japan: An Interpretive Analysis of Four Japanese Pollution Suits.” *Law and Society Review* 10 (4): 579-619.

#### **Section 5: Social Policy**

- How are they meeting contemporary social and political challenges?
- How are these issues being handled?
- How are these issues challenging/transforming the political structure?

Apr. 12 *Social Welfare and Income Disparity*  
*Social Science Japan Newsletter* no. 35, Articles by Honda, Ishida, and Sato; pp. 3-15.

##### Optional Reading

- Estevez-Abe, Margarita. “State-Society Partnerships in the Japanese Welfare State.” In Frank Schwartz and Susan Pharr. 2003. *The State of Civil Society in Japan*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 154-172.
- Kume, Ikuo. 1998 *Disparaged Success: Labor Politics in Postwar Japan*. Ithaca: Cornell UP. Ch. 1-2
- Institute of Social Science. 2005. “Youth Employment.” *Social Science Japan* 32. <http://newslet.iss.u-tokyo.ac.jp/ssj32/ssj32.pdf>

#### **Japan in the News #4**

Apr. 17 *Minority Issues*  
Ken Haig, “Japanese Immigration Policy,” ch. 20 in Alisa Gaunder, *The Routledge Handbook of Japanese Politics* (Routledge 2010).

##### Optional Reading

- Apichai Shipper. 2009. *Fighting for Foreigners: Immigration and Its Impact on Japanese Democracy*. Ithaca: Cornell. Chapters 5.
- Chung, Erin Aeran. *Immigration and Citizenship in Japan* (Cornell UP 2010).
- Nakamura, Karen. 2006. *Deaf in Japan: Signing and the Politics of Identity*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP. Ch. 1-2.

- Upham, Frank. 1987. “Instrumental Violence and the Struggle for Buraku Liberation,” ch. 3 in *Law and Social Change in Postwar Japan*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP.

Apr. 19     *Gender*  
Haddad ch. 6

Optional Reading:

- Robin LeBlanc *Bicycle Citizens* (California, 1999) and *The Art of the Gut* (California, 2009)
- Yasuo Takao. 2007. “Japanese Women in Grassroots Politics: Building a Gender-Equal Society from the Bottom Up.” *The Pacific Review* 20(2): 147-72.

Apr. 24     *The Future of Japanese Politics—Japan after 3-11*  
Haddad ch. 7

**Japan in the News #5**

Apr. 26     *Presentations*

May 1       *Presentations*

May 3       *Presentations*

May 8       *Wrapping up*

**Rough Draft posted to moodle group by May 2 at Noon —Peer Reviews in Class**

**Final Paper Due: Thursday May 17 by 12:00 noon.**