



PO 363 POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN CONTEMPORARY JAPAN

IES Abroad Tokyo

DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the nature of Japanese democracy and examines state-society and foreign relations in contemporary Japan. The topics to be discussed include the evolution of a distinctly Japanese brand of democracy since WWII, the legacy of the U.S. occupation, the consolidation of the “1955 System,” party politics, interest group representation, political role of women, and the controversy concerning the constitutional revision. In the latter part of the course, particular attention will be given to the political and economic upheavals of the “lost decade” of the 1990s and current political developments. Two field trips will complement classroom discussion.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

INSTRUCTOR: TBD

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COSTS: Students are required to pay for their transportation to excursion sites and may also have to pay modest entrance fees to events and exhibitions.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Lectures, discussions, student presentations, and field trips.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Attendance and Participation - 20%
- Short written reaction papers – 30%
- Mid-term exam – 20%
- Final Exam – 30%

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

- Attendance and active participation are required. In class discussion is your opportunity to work out your ideas or any confusion you might have about the reading.
- Students will have the opportunity to lead discussions on readings of their choice.

WEEKLY REACTION PAPERS

- You must turn in 5 of a possible 8 short (1 page) reaction papers.
- The assignments must be typed and proofread.
- Your paper should engage directly with the readings and course themes for the week. Try to put the readings in relationship to each other. Feel free to incorporate and work
- through questions that have come to mind. If you have further thoughts that are not on topic to share, you may do so in class discussion.
- Two of the reaction papers may be written on the field trips – in conversation with the assigned readings.
- No late assignments will be accepted. If, at the end of the course, you find that you have not managed to write 5 of the weekly reaction papers, you will have the option of writing two (rather than one) final exam essays.

EXAMS

- The midterm exam will be a take-home exam due on the seventh week at the beginning of class. It will consist of an essay 5-7 pages long. The questions will be handed out a week in advance.
- The final will be an in-class exam written in the final week. The exam will consist of identification questions and 2 short essays (2-3 pages long each). A study guide will be handed out in advance.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Please use active verbs.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

At IES Abroad Tokyo, attendance is mandatory for all classes, including course-related trips. Given the three-hour format, missing one class is the equivalent of missing an entire week of a regular semester. Unexcused absences will result in grade penalties. The first unexcused absence will lower your final grade by one-third of a letter grade, and each additional unexcused absence will reduce your grade by a full letter grade. For example, one missed class turns an A into an A-, two missed classes turn it into a B-, three into a C-, and so on.

Absences are excused only for unavoidable reasons, such as documented illness or other circumstances approved in advance by the instructor. Lateness to class (including class excursions) may count as unexcused absences at the instructor's discretion. Missed exams, tests, presentations, or assignments can only be rescheduled for documented medical or family emergencies.

If a student has accumulated absences representing 25% of the total class hours, the Academic Program Manager (APM) and Centre Director (CD) will contact them to schedule a disciplinary review, and their home institutions will be informed of the result.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments
Week 1	Introduction Overview of the course, Japanese politics as the product of culture or logic, the impact of history.	Readings: (Total Pages: 52) • Curtis, Gerald L. <i>The Logic of Japanese Politics: Leaders, Institutions, and the Limits of Change</i>. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999 "Introduction," pp. 1-23. • Hayes, Louis D. <i>Introduction to Japanese Politics</i>. 5th ed. Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, 2009 "Introduction," pp. 3-10. • Richardson, Bradley, and Dennis Patterson. "Political Tradition and Political Change: The Significance of Postwar Japanese Politics for Political Science." In <i>The Annual Review of Political Science</i> 4, (1999): 93-115.
Week 2	The Impact of the American Occupation: Why we still talk about the Occupation	Readings: (Total Pages: 93) • Dower, John W. <i>Embracing Defeat:</i>

	Period. Demilitarization and democratization, the impact of Occupation reforms, constitutional revision, war crimes and history issue in contemporary politics.	Japan in the Wake of World War II “Constitutional Democracy: GHQ Writes a New National Charter,” pp. 346-370 and “Constitutional Democracy: Japanizing the American Draft,” pp. 374-399. Hook, Glenn D., and Gavan McCormack. <i>Japan's Contested Constitution: Documents and Analysis</i>, “Parchment and politics: Japan’s living constitution,” pp. 1-44.
Week 3	Field Trip: Parliamentary Museum, Diet, and Hibiya Park	Readings: (Total Pages: 38) Gordon, Andrew. <i>A Modern History of Japan from Tokugawa Times to the Present</i>. London: Oxford University Press, 2003 “Chapter 6: Participation and Protest,” pp. 77-93, and ‘Chapter 8: Empire and Domestic Order,” pp. 115-137.
Week 4	What was the “1955 System” and is it really over? Factionalism, LDP hegemony, conservative-progressive division, electoral reform and the ‘breaking’ of factionalism.	Readings: (Total Pages: 95) - Curtis, Gerald L. <i>The Logic of Japanese Politics: Leaders, Institutions, and the Limits of Change</i>. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999. “The Politics of Complacency,” pp. 25-64. - Krauss, Ellis S., and Robert Pekkanen. “Explaining Party Adaptation to Electoral Reform: The Discreet Charm of the LDP.” <i>Journal of Japanese Studies</i> 30, no. 1 (2004): 1-34. - Köllner, Patrick. “Factionalism in Japanese Political Parties Revisited or How Do Factions in the LDP and the DPJ Differ?” <i>Japan Forum</i> 16, no. 1 (2004): 87-109.
Week 5	Bureaucrats, Politicians, and the Making of the “Developmental State” The sources of bureaucratic power, the evolution of the bureaucrat-politician relationship, and ‘iron triangles.’	Readings: (Total Pages: 43) - Gordon, Andrew. <i>A Modern History of Japan from Tokugawa Times to the Present</i>. London: Oxford University Press, 2003. “Political Struggles, High-Growth Era and Settlements of the High Growth Era,” pp. 270-290. - Noble, Gregory. “Political Leadership and Economic Policy in the Koizumi Cabinet.”

		Social Science Japan Journal 22, (2001): 24-28. Taira, Koji. "Dialectics of Economic Growth, National Power, and Distributive Struggles." In <i>Postwar Japan as History</i>, edited by Andrew Gordon, 167-86. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996.
Week 6	Checks and Balances?: The Opposition and The Press *Midterm Exam Due The impact of electoral reform, the relationship between the ruling party and opposition, the broadcasting and coverage of politics in Japan	Readings: (Total Pages: 50) - Krauss, Ellis S., and Benjamin Nyblade. "'Presentialization' in Japan? The Prime Minister, Media and Elections in Japan." <i>British Journal of Political Science</i> 35, (2005): 357-68. - Stockwin, J.A.A. "To Oppose or to Appease? Parties out of Power and the Need for Real Politics in Japan." <i>Japan Forum</i> 18, no. 1 (2006): 115-32. - Morris-Suzuki, Tessa. "Free Speech - Silenced Voices: The Japanese Media, the Comfort Women Tribunal, and the NHK Affair." <i>Japan Focus</i> (2005), http://www.japanfocus.org/-Tessa-Morris_Suzuki/2305.
Week 7	Progressives, Unions, and Students against the U.S-Japan Security Treaty, the rise of anti-Americanism or nationalism? Income-Doubling Plan, GNP-ism, and its human and non-human costs. Progressives, Unions, and Students against the U.S-Japan Security Treaty, the rise of anti- Americanism or nationalism? Income- Doubling Plan, GNP-ism, and its human and non-human costs.	Readings: (Total Pages: 62) - Apter, David E., and Nagayo Sawa. <i>Against the State: Politics and Social Protest in Japan</i>. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1984., "Introduction," pp. 1-17. - Upham, Frank K. "Unplaced Persons and Movements for Place." In <i>Postwar Japan as History</i>, edited by - Andrew Gordon, 325-46. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996. - Hein, Laura E. "Growth Versus Success Japan's Economic Policy in Historical Perspective." In <i>Postwar Japan as History</i>, edited by Andrew Gordon, 99-123. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.
Week 8	Gendered Politics	Readings: (Total Pages: 66) Mikanagi, Yumiko. "Japan's Gender-Biased Social Security Policy." <i>Japan Forum</i> 10, no. 2 (1998): 181-96.

	Patriarchal state, feminism in Japan, the politics of 'comfort women,' 'gender free,' and the gendered politics of an aging population.	• Ueno, Chizuko. <i>Nationalism and Gender</i>. Translated by Beverley Yamamoto. Melbourne: Trans-Pacific Press, 2004, "Part II: The Military Comfort Women Issue," pp. 69-105. • Mackie, Vera. <i>Feminism in Modern Japan: Citizenship, Embodiment, and Sexuality</i>. Edited by Yoshio Sugimoto, Comptemporary Japanese Society. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. "Introduction," pp.1-14 and "Citizens," pp. 120-143.
Week 9	Field Trip to Yasukuni Shrine and Yushukan Patriarchal state, feminism in Japan, the politics of 'comfort women,' 'gender free,' and the gendered politics of an aging population.	Readings: (Total Pages: 40) • Shibuchi, Daiki. "The Yasukuni Shrine Dispute and the Politics of Identity in Japan: Why All the Fuss?" <i>Asian Survey</i> 45, no. 2 (2005): 197- 215. • Selden, Mark. "Japan, the United States and Yasukuni Nationalism: War, Historical Memory and the Future of the Asia Pacific." <i>Japan Focus</i> (2008), http://www.japanfocus.org/-Mark-Selden/2892. Yasukuni Shine website (http://www.yasukuni.or.jp/english/)
Week 10	International Japan at Home and Abroad Yoshida foreign policy line, postwar pacifism- in-one country ideology, 'Internationalization,' Inter-National relations in Northeast Asia	Readings: (Total Pages: 102) • Dudden, Alexis. <i>Troubled Apologies among Japan, Korea, and the United States</i>. New York: Columbia University Press, 2008, pp. 1- 30. • McCormack, Gavan. <i>Target North Korea: Pushing North Korea to the Brink of Nuclear Catastrophe</i>. New York: Nation Books, 2004, "The Koreas: One Plus One Equals One," pp. 101- 119 and "Japan and North Korea: Difficult Neighbors," pp. 121-148. • Samuels, Richard J. "Securing Japan: The Current Discourse." <i>The Journal of Japanese Studies</i> 33, no. 1 (2007): 125- 52.
Week 11	The Lost Decade Death of an era, 1995, the bursting of the economic bubble, the broadening of political participation.	Readings: (Total Pages: 95) • Gordon, Andrew. <i>A Modern History of Japan from Tokugawa Times to the Present</i>. London: Oxford University Press, 2003. "Beyond the Postwar Era," pp. 310-332. • Pekkanen, Robert. "Japan's New Politics:

		The Case of the NPO Law." <i>Journal of Japanese Studies</i> 26, no. 1 (2000): 111-48 Yoda, Tomiko. "A Roadmap to Millennial Japan." In <i>Japan after Japan: Social and Cultural Life from Recessionary 1990s to the Present</i>, edited by Tomiko Yoda and Harry D. Harootunian, 17-53. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2006.
Week 12	Final Exam	

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Parliamentary Museum, Diet, and Hibiya Park
- Yasukuni Shrine and Yushukan

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Apter, David E., and Nagayo Sawa. *Against the State: Politics and Social Protest in Japan*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1984.
- Buerk, Roland. "Communism on Rise in Recession-Hit Japan." *BBC News*, 4 May 2009.
- Curtis, Gerald L. *The Logic of Japanese Politics: Leaders, Institutions, and the Limits of Change*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999.
- Dower, John W. *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1999.
- Gordon, Andrew. *A Modern History of Japan from Tokugawa Times to the Present*. London: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Hayes, Louis D. *Introduction to Japanese Politics*. 5th ed. Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, 2009.
- Hook, Glenn D., and Gavan McCormack. *Japan's Contested Constitution: Documents and Analysis*, Sheffield Centre for Japanese Studies/Routledge Series. London ; New York: Routledge, 2001.
- Köllner, Patrick. "Factionalism in Japanese Political Parties Revisited or How Do Factions in the LDP and the DPJ Differ?" *Japan Forum* 16, no. 1 (2004): 87-109.
- Krauss, Ellis S., and Robert Pekkanen. "Explaining Party Adaptation to Electoral Reform: The Discreet Charm of the Ldp." *Journal of Japanese Studies* 30, no. 1 (2004): 1-34.
- Mackie, Vera. *Feminism in Modern Japan: Citizenship, Embodiment, and Sexuality*. Edited by Yoshio Sugimoto, Comptemporary Japanese Society. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003. McCormack, Gavan. *Target North Korea: Pushing North Korea to the Brink of Nuclear Catastrophe*. New York: Nation Books, 2004.
- . "The Student Left in Japan." *New Left Review* 65, (1971): 37-53.
- Mikanagi, Yumiko. "Japan's Gender-Biased Social Security Policy." *Japan Forum* 10, no. 2 (1998): 181-96.
- Najita, Tetsuo. *Japan: The Intellectual Foundations of Modern Japanese Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980.
- Nester, William. "Japan's Mainstream Press: Freedom to Conform?" *Pacific Affairs* 62, no. 1 (1989): 29-39.
- Noble, Gregory. "Political Leadership and Economic Policy in the Koizumi Cabinet." *Social Science Japan Journal* 22, (2001): 24-28.
- Pekkanen, Robert. "Japan's New Politics: The Case of the Npo Law." *Journal of Japanese Studies* 26, no.1 (2000): 111-48.
- Samuels, Richard J. "Securing Japan: The Current Discourse." *The Journal of Japanese Studies* 33, no. 1 (2007): 125-52.
- Selden, Mark. "Japan, the United States and Yasukuni Nationalism: War, Historical Memory and the Future of the Asia Pacific." *Japan Focus* (2008), <http://www.japanfocus.org/-Mark-Selden/2892>. Shibuchi, Daiki. "The Yasukuni Shrine Dispute and the Politics of Identity in Japan: Why All the Fuss?" *Asian Survey* 45, no. 2 (2005): 197-215.
- Stockwin, J.A.A. "To Oppose or to Appease? Parties out of Power and the Need for Real Politics in Japan." *Japan Forum* 18, no. 1 (2006): 115-32.
- Ueno, Chizuko. *Nationalism and Gender*. Translated by Beverley Yamamoto. Melbourne: Trans-Pacific Press, 2004.



- Upham, Frank K. "Unplaced Persons and Movements for Place." In *Postwar Japan as History*, edited by Andrew Gordon, 325-46. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996.
- Yoda, Tomiko. "A Roadmap to Millennial Japan." In *Japan after Japan: Social and Cultural Life from Recessionary 1990s to the Present*, edited by Tomiko Yoda and Harry D. Harootunian, 17-53. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2006.