Japanese Politics (W4472)
Fall 2012
Wednesday 4:10-6:00 pm

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Office hours: Wednesday 3-4 and by appointment

Overview

This course examines contemporary Japanese domestic politics and foreign policy. No prior knowledge of Japanese politics is required. However, this is not an introductory course. It is a graduate course (open also to upper level undergraduates) that discusses important issues about Japanese politics and government performance.

The readings will be discussed in the discussion sessions. Attendance at the discussion sessions is mandatory for undergraduates and strongly recommended for graduate students. In addition to the assigned readings, students should familiarize themselves with resources available on the internet about contemporary politics in Japan and make it a habit to scan one or more of the on-line English language Japanese newspapers on a regular basis to keep abreast of current developments.

There will be an in-class midterm exam and a take-home final exam. The final exam will be distributed on December 5th in class and is due December 13th.

All readings that are not available online are on reserve at the Lehman Library. The following books are available at Book Culture and on-line at Amazon.com.

Curtis, Gerald L., Election Campaigning Japanese Style
Curtis, Gerald L., The Logic of Japanese Politics
Dower, John, Embracing Defeat
Estevan-Abe, Margarita, Welfare and Capitalism in Postwar Japan
Pyle, Kenneth, Japan Rising: The Resurgence of Japanese Power and Purpose
Samuels, Richard, Securing Japan: Tokyo’s Grand Strategy and the Future of East Asia
September 5 Introduction and Overview


September 12 The impact of war and occupation on postwar politics


September 19 Public Lecture - Another Year, Another Government: Making Sense of Japan’s Political Confusion

Please note that this class will start at 5pm

September 26 Senkyo (Election Campaigning) Film

This is Yom Kippur. For students who will not be attending class the alternative date to watch the film is Friday, September 21. Attendance in class on the 26th or on the 21st is compulsory. Attendance will be taken.

October 3 Grassroots Democracy Japanese Style


Gerald Curtis, *The Logic of Japanese Politics*, introduction and chapter 1


Ellis Krauss and Robert Pekkanen, *The Rise and Fall of Japan’s LDP*, ch 1 and ch 10


**October 10 The Long Era of One Party Dominance**


Scheiner, Ethan. *Democracy Without Competition in Japan*, pp. 1-64

**October 17 The Power of the Bureaucracy**


**October 24 Midterm Examination**

**October 31 The Fall of Japan As Number One And Its Political Consequences**

Ezra Vogel, *Japan As Number One*, chapters 4 and 10

Amyx, Jennifer, *Japan’s Financial Crisis*, pp 11-84

Steven Vogel, *Japan Remodeled: how government and industry are reforming Japanese capitalism*,
chapters 2 and 7

November 7  The Tohoku Disaster and its aftermath


Heizo Takenaka, “The great disaster and the Japanese economy,” in Funabashi and Takenaka, eds, Lessons from the disaster, pp. 117-146


November 14 The Japanese Welfare State

Leonard Shoppa, Race for the exits: the unraveling of Japan’s system of social protection, pp.36-66

Margarita Estevan-Abe, Welfare and Capitalism in Postwar Japan, chapter 1,3,9


November 21 Japan’s Security Policy


Richard Samuels, Securing Japan, pp. 1-12, 86-108, 185-210

November 28 Japan In A Changing East Asia

Victor Cha, Complex Patchworks: U.S. Alliances as Part of Asia's Regional Architecture, Asia Policy - Number 11, January 2011, pp. 27-50

Hugh White, “Power Shift: Rethinking Australia’s Place in the Asian Century, Australian Journal of International Affairs, 2011,

Hitoshi Tanaka, “The Strategic Rationale for an East Asian Community,”

December 5 Whither Japan