POLITICS IN JAPAN
GOV 321M (38840)/ ANS 321M (31810)

University of Texas at Austin
Spring 2011
TTH 8:00-9:30 am, PAR 201
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Course Description:

Japan's modern political history has been punctuated by three "critical junctures" that changed—or promised to change—the face of Japan: the Meiji Restoration of 1868, which sparked a period of rapid political modernization and industrialization; the period of democratization during the Allied Occupation of Japan (1945-52); and the post-1993 era of near economic stagnation and sluggish political-economic reform. Using the first two "critical junctures" as reference points, this course examines the structure and resilience of Japanese institutions and power alignments of the postwar era. What is distinctive about those institutions and alignments? Why is Japan having so much trouble reforming them today? How can we explain the changes that *have* been introduced in recent years?

In addressing these themes, we will analyze and debate a wide range of topics including the political legacies of the prewar political system' the impact of the Occupation on the development of postwar political institutions; the structure and functions of the changing electoral and political party systems; the relationship between the central and local governments; interest group politics; citizen protest and the development of civil society; the media in politics; the role of women in the political system; the government-business relationship and the significance of industrial policy during the postwar rapid economic growth period; the policy-making process; the sources and consequences of political corruption; Japan's gradual transition toward a "Westminster" parliamentary system; and ongoing efforts to reform the contemporary political economy. These topics will be discussed from comparative and historical perspectives and with reference to political science concepts and theories.

Prerequisites:

Coursework in political science and/or Japan Studies is recommended but not required.

Required Readings: The following texts are available for purchase at the University Co-op on Guadalupe:

1. Andrew Gordon, *Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present*. Oxford University Press, 2008 (2nd edition).
2. Francis McCall Rosenbluth and Michael Thies, *Japan Transformed*. Princeton University Press, 2010.
3. Robert Pekkanen, *Japan's Dual Society: Members Without Advocates*. Cornell University Press, 2006.
4. Robin LeBlanc, *Bicycle Citizens: The Political World of the Japanese Housewife*. University of California Press, 1999.
5. Jacob M. Schlesinger, *Shadow Shoguns: The Rise and Fall of Japan's Postwar Political Machine*. Sanford University Press, 1999.

Additional readings are posted under "Documents" on the Blackboard site for this course. Students will also be forwarded newspaper articles on current events relating to Japan.

Assignments:

1. Quizzes. Approximately 6 will be administered over the course of the semester. The lowest quiz score will be omitted from final tally: 15%
2. Midterm exam #1 (Thurs., Feb. 24): 20%
3. Midterm exam #2 (Thurs., Mar. 31/ Exam is cumulative): 25% (Instead of the exam, students may write a 6-8 page research paper. Topics must be approved by the instructor by March 24. Papers are due in class on Apr 28.)
4. Final exam (Tuesday, May 17, 9:00-12:00): 40%

Class Rules and Guidelines:

1. Students with disabilities are welcome to request appropriate accommodations. Please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6259) and the instructor for further information. See also http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/
2. While this course includes no attendance grade, successful completion of the quizzes requires you to attend all classes and to arrive for each class on time.
3. All lectures, readings, films, and newspaper articles distributed during the course of the semester will be subject to examination.
4. You are responsible for keeping up with e-mail correspondence with the instructor, as well as notices and other postings on the Blackboard site for this course.
5. All assignments must be completed on or before the specified due dates. Only students with officially documented military or medical excuses can be exempted from this rule. Assignments submitted late will be penalized 5% per day.
6. PowerPoint presentations are designed to provide you with rough outlines of basic concepts and themes. If you wish to do well in this course, you must take detailed notes during lectures and class discussions. *Lecture notes and PowerPoint presentations will not be posted on the web*.
7. Students guilty of academic dishonesty (ex., cheating on an exam or

plagiarizing a paper) will receive a "0" for the assignment in question. No exceptions. Students are strongly urged to refer to the following link from the Dean of Students for an explanation of what plagiarism is and how it can be avoided: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php.

8. You *must* take the final exam during the time-slot designated by the university. For our course, the exam date is Tuesday, May 17, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

9. Texting/cell phone usage is not permitted in this class. If you are seen texting during a lecture, *you will be asked to stop*. Laptops are permitted in class, but as a courtesy to the instructor and rest of the class, *please refrain from using your laptop for purposes other than note taking.*

10. Please arrive for class on time. If you must miss a class, arrive late, or leave early, *please inform me in advance.*

Grading Policy: This course adopts UT's "plus & minus" grading system. The following is a list of letter grades, their corresponding GPA values, and the percentage values that I plan to use for your assignments:

Letter Grade	GPA	Percentage Score
A	4.0	94-100%
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.0	84-86
B-	2.67	80-83
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.0	74-76
C-	1.67	70-73
D+	1.33	67-69
D	1.0	64-66
D-	.67	60-63
F	0	59 & below

Lecture Schedule

As a general rule, students are expected to complete all readings by the beginning of each unit.

Jan. 18: Introduction to the Course

- Rosenbluth & Thies, *Japan Transformed*, Chapter 1.
- "Into the Unknown: A special report on Japan," *The Economist*, November 20, 2010.

Jan. 20 & 25: Party Systems and Policymaking in Prewar Japan

▪ Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*, pp. 61-201.
▪ Rosenbluth & Thies, *Japan Transformed*, Chapters 2 & 3.

Jan. 27, Feb. 1 & 3: The Occupation (1945-52)—The Political Legacies of Democratization, Demilitarization, and the "Reverse Course"

▪ Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*, pp. 202-241.
▪ John W. Dower, "Occupied Japan and the Cold War in Asia," in *Japan in War & Peace: Selected Essays* (NY: The New Press, 1993).

Feb. 8, 10, 15 & 17: "The 1955 System"—Political Institutions, Party Competition, and the Secrets of "One Party Dominance"

▪ Schlesinger, *Shadow Shoguns*, Parts One & Two.
▪ Rosenbluth & Thies, *Japan Transformed,* Chapter 4.

Feb. 22: <u>First In-Class Midterm Exam</u>

Feb. 24, Mar. 1, 3: Interest Groups and the Problem of Structural Corruption

▪ Chalmers Johnson, "Tanaka Kakuei, Structural Corruption, and the Advent of Machine Politics in Japan, *Journal of Japanese Studies* vol. 12, no. 1 (1986): 1-28.
▪ Patricia L. Maclachlan, "Post Office Politics in Modern Japan: The Postmasters, Iron Triangles, and the Limits of Reform." *Journal of Japanese Studies*, 30:2 (2004): 281-313.

Mar. 8, 10, 22, 24 & 29 (Mar. 15 & 17: Spring Break Holiday): Explaining the Postwar "Economic Miracle"—Industrial Policy and the Government-Business Relationship

▪ Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*, pp. 245-88.
▪ Rosenbluth & Thies*, Japan Transformed*, Chapter 5.
▪ Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle* (Stanford University Press, 1982), pp. 3-34.
▪ Frank K. Upham, "Review: The Man Who Would Import: A Cautionary Tale about Bucking the System in Japan," *Journal of Japanese Studies* 17, no. 2 (Summer 1991): 323-43.

▪ Kent E. Calder, "Elites in an Equalizing Role: Ex-Bureaucrats as Coordinators and Intermediaries in the Japanese Government-Business Relationship," *Comparative Politics* 21, no. 4 (July 1989): 379-403.

Mar. 31: <u>Second In-Class Midterm Exam</u>

Apr. 5 & 7: Japan's Evolving Civil Society

▪ Pekkanen, *Japan's Dual Society*, Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 5.

Apr. 12 & 14: Women's Issues in Postwar Japanese Politics

▪ LeBlanc, *Bicycle Citizens*, Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 6.

Apr. 19, 21 & 26: Electoral Reform and the Decline of "One Party Dominance"

▪ Schlesinger, *Shadow Shoguns*, Part Four.
▪ Rosenbluth & Thies, *Japan Transformed*, Chapter 6.
▪ Margarita Estevez-Abe, "Japan's Shift Toward a Westminster System: A Structural Analysis of the 2005 Lower House Election and Its Aftermath," *Asian Survey* 46, no. 4 (July-August 2006): 632-51.

Apr. 28, May 3 & 5: The Politics of Political-Economic Change

▪ Rosenbluth and Thies, *Japan Transformed*, Chapters 7, 9 & Epilogue.
▪ Aurelia George Mulgan, "Where Tradition Meets Change: Japan's Agricultural Politics in Transition," *Journal of Japanese Studies* 31, no. 2 (Summer 2005): 261-98.
▪ Patricia L. Maclachlan, "The Politics and Implications of Japanese Postal Reform: The DPJ Response," in Alisa Gaunder, ed., *Handbook of Japanese Politics* (Routledge, 2011).

Useful Japan-related websites:

http://web-japan.org/links/index.html (provides links to government websites and English-language newspapers)

http://jpcentral.virginia.edu/index.htm (includes a very useful bibliography for Japanese politics)

http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/index-e.html (home page of the prime minister's official residence)

http://newslet.iss.u-tokyo.ac.jp/ (Social Science Japan Newsletter, from the University of Tokyo)

http://hcl.harvard.edu/research/guides/data_japan/index.html (data resources on Japan from Harvard University. Not all resources are available to non-affiliates.)

http://www.mansfieldfdn.org/polls/polls_listing.htm (an up-to-date list of public opinion polls on Japan from the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation)

http://www.mmz.kantei.go.jp/foreign/m-magazine/index.html (subscription information for the Japan Prime Minister's e-mail magazine)

http://www.observingjapan.com/ (A cool blog on Japanese politics by Tobias Harris)

http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/eastasia (the website for UT's Center for East Asian Studies. Check for list of upcoming events on Japan and useful research resources)