

# GOVT/ CEAS 296: Introduction to Japanese Politics

Spring 2017  
Class: Tuesday and Thursday 1:20-2:40 PAC221  
Office Hours: Thursdays 11-12 CEAS 201

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## ***Overview***

This 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. We will be looking at the process of Japan's democratization as well as several areas of contemporary policy. In each case we will be examining the ways that political, economic, and social actors interact to transform politics and policy. So, we will also be asking questions like: "How did Japan democratize?" "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. Internationally, Japan's role in regional and global politics has shifted with the rise of China. Domestically, Japanese citizens are becoming more assertive and finding new ways to make their voices heard. This is an exciting time to study this fascinating country.

## ***Objectives***

There are five primary learning goals for this class:

- Understand the 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 to class prepared and to participate actively in all class activities.

Readings: Mary Alice Haddad *Building Democracy in Japan* (Cambridge 2012) available at Broad Street Books, Amazon, etc. Other readings will be posted on Moodle.

### ***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. They will also need to participate in the movement workshop (part of environmental politics section).

### 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). Prior to the final paper you will hand in a thesis statement, outline, and a preliminary bibliography. Throughout the semester you will be meeting in “research groups” with peers conducting research on similar topics in order to discuss your progress, share resources, and circulate drafts. Towards the end of the semester 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 during exam week.

See our Japanese Politics Page for library resources: <http://wesleyan.beta.libguides.com/GOVT296>

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/studentaffairs/studenthandbook/standardsregulations/studentconduct.html>.

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*

Mary Alice Haddad, *Building Democracy in Japan* (Preface, Ch. 3)

Feb. 2 *The 1990s and the Remaking of the 1955-system*

Gerald Curtis, *The Logic of Japanese Politics* (Columbia 1999), Ch. 1.

Haddad, *Building Democracy in Japan* (Ch. 4)

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.

Ellis Krauss and Benjamin Nyblade, 2005 "'Presidentialization' in Japan? The Prime  
Minister, Media and Elections in Japan" *British Journal of Political Science* 35:2, 357-368.

Feb. 9 *Legislative Branch: Party System and the LDP*

Ellis Krauss and Robert Pekkanen, "The Rise and Fall of the Liberal Democratic Party" *The  
Journal of Asian Studies* 69:1 (2010) 5-15.

Steven Reed, "The Liberal Democratic Party: An Explanation of Its Successes and  
Failures" in Alisa Gaunder, *The Routledge Handbook of Japanese Politics* (2011)

### **PAPER QUESTION DUE—The "Puzzle" you want to answer and 3 sources.**

Feb. 14 *Legislative Branch: Opposition Parties*

Phillip Lipsy and Ethan Scheiner, "Japan Under the DPJ: The Paradox of Political  
Change Without Policy Change," *Journal of East Asian Studies*. 12 (2012), 311-322.

Robin LeBlanc. "The Potential Limits of Antiparty Electoral Movements in Local  
Politics" Ch. 9 in Sherry Martin and Gil Steel. *Democratic Reform in Japan:  
Assessing the Impact*. (Lynne Reinner, 2008).

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

Feb. 16 *Judiciary*

Mark Ramsayer, *Second Best Justice: The Virtues of Japanese Private Law* (Chicago, 2015) ch.7

Steinhoff, Patricia G. *Going to Court to Change Japan: Social Movements and the Law in  
Contemporary Japan*. (University of Michigan Press, 2014). Ch. 1

Feb. 21 *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. 23 *Civil Society*

Mary Alice Haddad, "Transformation of Japan's Civil Society Landscape," *Journal of East Asian Studies* (September 2007) 7:3; pp. 413-437.  
Takao, Yasuo. 2007 *Reinventing Japan: From Merchant Nation to Civic Nation*. New York, NY: Palgrave. Ch. 6

**MIDTERM DUE MONDAY FEB 27 at 9am** Turnitin.com **SAVED as 1 FILE, hard copy turned in During class on Tuesday February 28.**

## **Section 2: International Politics—Japan's Shifting Role**

- How has changing regional politics affected Japan's role?
- What are the key issues in Japan's foreign policy? How have they changed?
- How have Japan's international interests shifted? How have its diplomatic strategies changed?

Feb. 28 *Changing Regional Relations*

Takashi Hamashita, "The Intra-regional System in East Asian in Modern Times" in Peter Katzenstein and Takashi Shiraishi, *Network Power: Japan and Asia* (Cornell 1997) ch.3.  
Foreign Affairs, "Japan Is Back," Interview with Shinzo Abe. 92:4 (Jul/Aug 2013).

### Optional Reading:

- Walter Hatch and Kozo Yamamura, *Asia in Japan's Embrace* (Cambridge 1996).
- Kent Calder and Min Ye. *The Making of Northeast Asia*. Stanford, Stanford UP. 2010.
- Kenneth Pyle. *Japan Rising: The Resurgence of Japanese Power and Purpose*. New York. Public Affairs. 2007.
- 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.

## **Japan in the News #2**

Mar. 2 *Nationalism*

Masao Maruyama. 1963. *Thought and Behavior in Modern Japanese Politics*.  
Translated by Ivan Morris. New York: Oxford University Press.  
"Theory and Psychology of Ultra-Nationalism" (Ch. 1).

Nakano Koichi, "Contemporary Political Dynamics of Japanese Nationalism" Japan Focus, 1  
1/15/2016 14:2.

### Optional Reading

- Patricia Steinhoff. “No Helmets in Court, No T-shirts on Death Row: New Left Trial Support Groups: in Steinhoff *Going to Court to Change Japan*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. 2014.
- Chizuko Ueno.(B. Yamamoto Trans.) *Nationalism and Gender*. Melbourne: TransPacific Press. 2004.

Mar. 7 *Security*

Richard Samuels. *Securing Japan: Tokyo’s Grand Strategy and the Future of East Asia* Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2007. Chapter 1.

Craig Martin, “Jus ad Bellum Implications of Japan’s New National Security Laws” *Japan Focus: The Asia-Pacific Journal* 14:10; May 2016.

### Optional Reading:

- Reinhard Drifte, “The Japan-China Confrontation Over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands—Between ‘shelving’ and ‘dispute escalation’ *The Asia Pacific Journal* 12:30 no. 3, 2014.
- Peter Katzenstein. 1996. *Cultural Norms and National Security: Police and Military in Postwar Japan*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP.
- David Arase, “Japan, the Active State?: Security Policy after 9-11,” *Asian Survey*, 47:4 (Jul/Aug 2007). Pp. 560-583).

### *Trade (TPP)*

Ulrike Schaede and William Grimes eds. *Japan’s Managed Globalization: Adapting to the Twenty-first Century*. (ME Sharpe 2003). Ch. 1.

Deborah Elms, “The Origins and Evolution of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Negotiations. *Asian Survey*. Nov/Dec 2016.

Deborah Elms, Policy brief: “How an FTA Like TPP Can Transform A Value Chain: The Ketchup Example” June 2016.

### Optional Reading

- Ulrike Schaede, *Choose and Focus* (Cornell 2008).
- NBR Report: “New Dynamics in U.S. Global Trade Strategy? A Reinvigorated Japan and the Trans-Pacific Partnership” (NBR, Sept. 2013).
- T.J. Pempel “Soft Balancing, Hedging, and Institutional Darwinism: The Economic-Security Nexus and East Asian Regionalism,” *Journal of East Asian Studies* 10 (2010) 209-238

## **SPRING BREAK!!!!**

### **Section 3: Domestic Politics—Rise of Citizen Voices**

- What are Japan’s pressing domestic social needs?
- What is the role of Japanese citizens in identifying those needs and providing solutions?
- How do Japanese citizens assert demands on their government?
- How are they doing that in ways that are different from before?

Mar. 28 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. 30 *Traditional Civil Society Groups*  
Haddad *Building Democracy in Japan* ch. 5

### 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. 4 *New-Style Civil Society Groups*  
Haddad, *Building Democracy in Japan*, Ch. 6

### 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).

**PAPER OUTLINE DUE: Major Sections, 2-4 sources listed under each section**

**Mandatory Film Screening: Slow Way Home. Ring Family Theater@5:30**

### ***Section 4: Domestic Policy—Social Welfare, Gender, Environment 3-11***

Apr. 6 *Poverty and Inequality*  
Gorg Blind and Stefania Tottantivon Mandach. 2015. "Decades not Lost, but Won: Increased Employment, Higher Wages, and More Equal Opportunities in the Japanese Labour Market," *Social Science Japan Journal*. 18:1, 63-88.  
Satoko Oka Norimatsu, "Fukushima and Okinawa – the 'Abandoned People,' and Civic Empowerment," *The Asia-Pacific Journal* 9.47.3, November 21, 2011.

### Optional Readings

- 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*. Cornell UP.

- Institute of Social Science. 2005. "Youth Employment." *Social Science Japan* 32.

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

Apr. 11 *Minority Issues*

Ken Haig, "Japanese Immigration Policy," ch. 20 in Alisa Gaunder, *The Routledge Handbook of Japanese Politics* (Routledge 2010).

Erin Aeran Chung, "Exercising Citizenship: Koreans Living in Japan," *Asian Perspective* 24:4, pp159-178.

#### 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. 13 *Gender*

Haddad, *Building Democracy in Japan*, Ch. 7

#### 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.
- Chisa Fujiwara, "Single Mothers and Welfare Restructuring in Japan: Gender and Class Dimensions of Income and Employment," *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, January 2, 2008

#### **Mandatory Talk: Lenoard Schoppa: Slow Way Home; CEAS seminar room @ 4:30**

Apr. 18 *Environment*

***Movement Workshop--MEET IN FAYERWEATHER 106 -- DRESS to MOVE***

Margaret McKean. 1981. *Environmental Protest and Citizen Politics in Japan*. Berkeley, University of California Press. Chapter 1.

#### Optional Reading:

- Jeffrey Broadbent. 1998. *Environmental Politics in Japan: Networks of Power and Protest*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.
- Mary Alice Haddad, "Paradoxes of Democratization: Environmental Politics in East Asia" in Harris and Lang eds. *Routledge Handbook of East Asia and the Environment* (Routledge, 2015), 86-104.
- Miranda Schreurs, 2002. *Environmental Politics in Japan, Germany, and the United States*. New York: Cambridge University Press.



- 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.

Apr. 20     *3-11, Japan’s Triple Disaster*  
 Richard Samuels. *3.11 Disaster and Change in Japan*. Cornell UP. 2013. Ch. 1.  
 Son Masayoshi and Andrew DeWit, “Creating a Solar Belt in East Japan: The Energy Future,”  
*The Asia-Pacific Journal* 9.38.2, September 19, 2011.

Optional Reading

- <http://teach311.org>
- <http://www.jdarchive.org/en/home>
- Jeff Kingston, *Natural Disaster and Nuclear Crisis in Japan: Response and Recovery after Japan’s 3/11* (Routledge) 2012.
- Timothy S. George, “Fukushima in Light of Minamata,” *The Asia-Pacific Journal* 10.11.5, March 12, 2012.
- Toshihiko Hayashi, “Japan’s Post-Disaster Economic Reconstruction: From Kobe to Tohoku,” *Asian Economic Journal* 26:3, 189-201

**Japan in the News #5**

Apr. 25     *The Future of Japanese Politics*  
 Haddad *Building Democracy in Japan*, Conclusion

Apr. 27     *Presentations*

May 2       *Presentations*

May 4       *Presentations*

May 8  
**Rough Draft Posted to Moodle by May 8 by noon**

May 9       *Wrapping Up*

**Final Paper Due: May 18 by 12:00 noon**—Digital Only: Turnitin.com and Moodle