

POLITICAL SCIENCE 143B  
NORTHEAST ASIAN POLITICS: JAPAN

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COURSE GOALS

This course examines the politics and policy of contemporary Japan, applying a range of theoretical perspectives to analyze both recent history and current events. After a brief historical review, we survey the core political institutions of the postwar era, examine patterns of political interaction, survey recent social changes, and analyze current debates over policy issues ranging from economic reform to defense policy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Quiz (9/27)	10%
Two short papers (due 10/28 and 11/21)	40%
bCourses postings	5%
Class participation	15%
Final examination	30%

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Books for purchase (also available on reserve at Moffitt Library):

\* Sheldon Garon, *Molding Japanese Minds* (1997)  
Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan* (2014)  
Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle* (1982)  
Krauss and Pekkanen, *The Rise and Fall of Japan's LDP* (2011)  
Steven Vogel, *Japan Remodeled* (2006)  
Course Reader (available at Copy Central on Bancroft)

\* Items marked with an asterisk are available online via the bCourses site.

In addition to the assigned readings, you must keep up with current events in Japan by reading at least one quality newspaper and one weekly news magazine on a regular basis. You are strongly encouraged to subscribe, but you may also fulfill this assignment by checking Internet news sources regularly. You may want to keep a file of news clips to use for your press review paper. You are also expected to read any news clips posted on the bCourses site.

## PART I: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 1. Japan's New Politics 1993-present (8/30)

Gordon, 308-54.

- \* Steven Vogel, "American Press Illusions About Japanese Politics," *JPRI Critique* (February 1995).
- \* Steven Vogel, "Japan's Long Road to Competitive Politics," *Current History* (September 2010).
- \* Pekkanen and Pekkanen, "Japan In 2015: More About Abe," *Asian Survey* (January/February 2016), 34-46.
- \* Purnendra Jain, "What's Next After Abe's Supermajority in the Upper House?," *East Asia Forum* (July 12, 2016).

### 2. Meiji Politics (9/6)

Gordon, 11-21, 47-75, 76-137.

### 3. Taisho Democracy, War, and Occupation (9/13)

Gordon, 161-201, 224-241, 268-88.

- \* Garon, 3-22.

## PART II: POSTWAR POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

### 4. The Postwar System (9/20)

T.J. Pempel, "Prerequisites for Democracy: Political and Social Institutions," in Ishida and Krauss, eds., *Democracy in Japan* (1989), 17-37.

- \* Jonathan Marshall, "Democratizing the Law in Japan," in Alisa Gaunder, ed., *The Routledge Handbook of Japanese Politics* (2011), 92-102.

J.A.A. Stockwin, *Governing Japan* (2008), 156-78.

Krauss and Pekkanen, 29-64.

Ichiro Ozawa, *Blueprint for a New Japan* (1994), 62-75.

- \* Raymond Christensen, "The New Japanese Election System," *Pacific Affairs* (Spring 1996), 49-70.

### 5. The Party System plus a QUIZ (9/27)

Krauss and Pekkanen, 1-28 and 260-87.

- \* J.A.A. Stockwin, "To Oppose or to Appease: Parties Out of Power and the Need for Real Politics in Japan," *Japan Forum* (March 2006), 115-32.

Kushida and Lipsy, "The Rise and Fall of the Democratic Party of Japan," in Kushida and Lipsy, eds., *Japan Under the DPJ* (2013), 3-34.

Pekkanen and Reed, "From Third Force to Third Party: Duverger's Revenge?," in Pekkanen, Reed, and Scheiner, *Japan Decides 2014: The Japanese General Election* (2015), 62-71.

- \* Yoshisuke Iinuma, "Abe's New Conservatism," *Oriental Economist* (March 2016), 11-13.

## 6. The Bureaucracy and the Media (10/4)

Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*, 35-82.

Ramseyer and Rosenbluth, *Japan's Political Marketplace* (1993), 99-120.

Ichiro Ozawa, *Blueprint for a New Japan* (1994), 46-61.

Krauss and Pekkanen, 226-30.

\* David McNeil, "False Dawn: The War on Watchdog Journalism in Japan," in Kushida, Kasuya, and Kawabata, eds., *Information Governance in Japan* (2016).

## PART III: THE POLICY PROCESS

### 7. Contending Models (10/11)

\* Brian Woodall, *Japan Under Construction* (1996), 1-23.

Gregory Noble, "Who – If Anyone – Is in Charge? Evolving Discourses of Political Power and Bureaucratic Delegation in Postwar Japanese Policymaking," in Gill Steel, ed., *Power In Contemporary Japan* (2016), 185-200.

Arthur Stockwin, "Japanese Politics: Mainstream or Exotic?," in Jeff Kingston, ed., *Critical Issues in Contemporary Japan* (2014), 11-23.

\* Garon and Mochizuki, "Negotiating Social Contracts," in Gordon, ed., *Postwar Japan as History* (1993), 145-66.

\* Lonny Carlile, "The Labor Movement," in Alisa Gaunder, ed., *The Routledge Handbook of Japanese Politics* (2011), 162-74.

Aurelia George Mulgan, "The Farm Lobby," in Inoguchi and Jain, eds., *Japanese Politics Today* (2011), 109-26.

### 8. Developmental State and Clientelistic State (10/18)

Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*, 3-34, 305-24.

Richard Katz, *Japan: The System That Soured* (1998), 289-317.

\* Chalmers Johnson, "Tanaka Kakuei, Structural Corruption, and the Advent of Machine Politics in Japan," *Journal of Japanese Studies* (Winter 1986), 1-28.

### 9. Inclusion and Exclusion (10/25)

Frank Schwartz, "Of Fairy Cloaks and Familiar Talks: The Politics of Consultation," in Allinson and Sone, eds., *Political Dynamics in Contemporary Japan* (1993), 217-41.

Vogel, *Japan Remodeled*, 51-63.

\* Yoshisuke Iinuma, "Third-Party Panels Take the Stage," *Oriental Economist* (June 2012), 9-10.

\* Kawato, Pekkanen, and Yamamoto, "State and Civil Society in Japan," in Alisa Gaunder, ed., *The Routledge Handbook of Japanese Politics* (2011), 117-29.

\* Susan Pharr, *Losing Face: Status Politics in Japan* (1990), 15-38, 75-89.

\* Daniel Aldrich, "Rethinking Civil Society-State Relations in Japan after the Fukushima Incident," *Polity* (2013), 249-264.

## PART IV: SOCIAL CHANGE

### 10. The Role of Women (11/1)

- \* Garon, *Molding Japanese Minds*, 149-205.
- Suzanne Vogel, *The Japanese Family in Transition* (2013), 149-78.
- \* Ayako Kano, "The Future of Gender in Japan: Work/Life Balance and Relations Between the Sexes," in Baldwin and Allison, *Japan: The Precarious Future* (2015), 87-109.
- \* Devin Stewart, "Abenomics Meets Womenomics: Transforming the Japanese Workplace," *Foreign Affairs Letter* (January 29, 2015).
- \* Yoshisuke Iinuma, "Daycare Dilemma," *Oriental Economist* (April 2016), 10-12.

### 11. Demographic Shifts (11/8)

- \* Garon, *Molding Japanese Minds*, 207-237.
- Kelly and White, "Students, Slackers, Singles, Seniors, and Strangers: Transforming a Family-Nation," in Katzenstein and Shiraishi, eds., *Beyond Japan* (2006), 63-82.
- \* Sawako Shirahase, "Demography as Destiny: Falling Birthrates and the Allure of a Blended Society," in Baldwin and Allison, eds., *Japan: The Precarious Future* (2015), 11-35.
- \* Osawa and Kingston, "Risk and Consequences: The Changing Japanese Employment Paradigm," in Baldwin and Allison, eds., *Japan: The Precarious Future* (2015), 58-86.
- \* Ken Haig, "Japanese Immigration Policy," in Alisa Gaunder, ed., *The Routledge Handbook of Japanese Politics* (2011), 223-35.

## PART V: POLICY ISSUES

### 12. Economic Reform (11/15)

- Vogel, *Japan Remodeled*, 1-11, 22-50, 205-24.
- Aurelia George Mulgan, "The Politics of Trade Policy," in Jeff Kingston, ed., *Critical Issues in Contemporary Japan* (2014), 24-36.
- \* T.J. Pempel, "Back to the Future? Japan's Search for a Meaningful New Role in the Emerging Regional Order," *Asian Perspective* (2015), 361-380.
- \* Richard Katz, "Voodoo Abenomics: Japan's Failed Comeback Plan," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2014), 133-41.
- \* Shiro Armstrong, "Three More Arrows to Revive the Japanese Economy," *East Asia Forum* (June 2016).

No class on 11/22.

13. Defense and Foreign Policy (11/29)

\* Michael Green, *Japan's Reluctant Realism* (2003), 35-75.

\* Richard Samuels, *Securing Japan*, 1-9, 109-132.

\* Adam Liff, "Japan's Defense Policy: Abe the Evolutionary," *Washington Quarterly* (2015), 79-99.

Mark Selden, "Territorial Disputes with Korea and China: Small Islets, Enduring Conflicts," in Kingston, ed., *Critical Issues in Contemporary Japan* (2014), 149-160.

\* Masami Ito, "Russian-Held Isles: So Near, So Far," *Japan Times* (January 18, 2011).

\* Repeta and Jones, "State Power versus Individual Freedom: Japan's Constitutional Past, Present, and Possible Futures," in Baldwin and Allison, *Japan: The Precarious Future* (2015), 304-28.

Course Review Session (12/6)

[Attendance optional.]

## WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

### READING MEMOS (two postings total)

Write a one-paragraph memo (150 words maximum) on the readings for one class session and post it to the bCourses site by 12 noon the Tuesday of the relevant week. We will discuss some of the memos in class. The memos may take a variety of forms: 1) Critique one or more of the readings, 2) Relate the readings to a recent news story or news commentary, 3) Write your own question on the readings and answer it, 4) Propose a topic for discussion that relates to the readings, 5) Answer one of the discussion questions (see the bCourses site). Feel free to experiment with this assignment.

### FREE DISCUSSION MEMOS (one posting minimum)

There are no restrictions on the length of these postings. You may write about anything relevant to the course. For example: review a book or a movie, report on a public lecture on campus, discuss a news article or opinion column, or debate policy issues. Postings beyond the one memo minimum will count toward your class participation grade.

You must complete the memo assignments in a timely fashion. See “Grading Guidelines” on the bCourses site for details.

### PRESS REVIEW PAPER (due by 12 noon on 10/28)

Write a 1500-word essay on media coverage of Japanese politics. Focus primarily on the period of this course (i.e. August through October). You might review one newspaper or news magazine’s coverage of Japan in depth, or review news coverage from a variety of newspapers and magazines on a particular news story. Make sure to analyze and critique the coverage. Has it been accurate and insightful? Has it been biased? Do the reporters understand the dynamics of Japanese politics? How could the reporters improve the coverage? Incorporate course readings and material from class into your analysis.

### POLICY ANALYSIS PAPER (due by 12 noon on 11/21)

Write a 1500-word essay on Japanese government policy in the period since Prime Minister Abe took power in December 2012 in one issue-area, such as economic reform or foreign policy. You are encouraged to focus on a specific issue (e.g. the consumption tax or the secrecy law) within these categories. Base your paper primarily on course readings, plus news clips on your specific topic as needed. Briefly describe this policy and then analyze the political factors shaping the policy. Focus on the political dynamics of the issue, not on advocating a particular policy stance. How does the Abe administration’s approach to this policy differ from that of the DPJ or previous LDP administrations? Which interest groups, government agencies, and political parties are involved in setting policy in this area? What are their respective positions on the issue? How do they interact? Link your argument to theories and analytical perspectives introduced in the course.

You are strongly encouraged to discuss your papers with the GSI and/ or the course instructor well in advance of these due dates.