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POL307H1S: Japanese Politics
Winter, 2023-2024
Wednesday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Location: See classroom location on ACORN

Course Description

This course introduces students to the politics, political economy, and international relations of Japan. We will cover the role of political parties, the bureaucracy, and private actors; economic development and stagnation; relations with the United States and regional neighbors. The course places a particular emphasis on contemporary challenges facing Japan, including energy policy and climate change, Japan's contributions to the liberal international order, and Japan's response to geopolitical challenges, such as North Korea and the rise of China.

Course Format

The course will meet once a week for two hours. A lecture will be followed by time for Q&A and discussion of contemporary issues. Students will also interact with each other through the online discussion board on Quercus.

Course Requirements

Participation (25%): Each student is required to post one discussion question (~one or two paragraphs) and at least one reply to another student (~a few sentences) every week to the online bulletin board on Quercus. These should demonstrate clear engagement with the readings for the week. The discussion question is due at 5 p.m. the day before class. The reply is due before the beginning of class. Lecture attendance will not be recorded or assessed, but you will be expected to incorporate material from the lectures into the short essay and term test assignments.

Short Essay (25%): 1000-1250 words. You can choose one of two options: 1. Attend a Japan-related virtual or in-person seminar at University of Toronto during the semester (the instructor will provide a list). After briefly summarizing the presentation, provide a critique while drawing

connections to course themes and readings; 2. Write a book review (the instructor will provide a list of books). After briefly summarizing the key arguments of the book, provide a critique while drawing connections to course themes and readings. Deadline: 4/5.

Term Test 1 (25%): An open book & open note take home test will be administered during the class session on 2/14 (9am-11am) covering material from the first half of the class.

Term Test 2 (25%): An open book & open note take home test will be administered during the class session on 4/3 (9am-11am) covering material for the whole class but with greater emphasis on the second half.

Late Policy

For the sake of fairness to students completing their assignments on time, unexcused late assignments will be subject to a 5% reduction after the deadline has passed. Thereafter, an additional 5% will be deducted for each additional day (short essay) or 10 minutes (term tests) the assignment is late. Online discussion posts must be submitted on time to receive credit. If you believe you have a valid reason for submitting an assignment late, you should communicate with me beforehand unless it is impossible to do so for unforeseen reasons. Please consult the end of the syllabus for additional relevant policies.

Prerequisites

Although several formal prerequisites are listed for administrative reasons, they will not be enforced by the instructor.

Readings

All readings will be made available online on Quercus. No purchases are necessary.

Additional Information

Please see the end of the syllabus for additional information and resources.

1/10: Introduction & Overview

Phillip Y. Lipsky 2022. "Japan: The Harbinger State." *Japanese Journal of Political Science*. 24 (1): 80-97.

Richard Samuels. 2007. *Securing Japan*. Cornell University Press, Chapter 1.

Government of Canada. "Canada-Japan Relations." https://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/japan-japon/bilateral_relations_bilaterales/index.aspx?lang=eng

1/17: The Postwar Political System

Ellis S. Krauss and Robert Pekkanen. 2011. *The Rise and Fall of Japan's LDP: Political Party Organizations as Historical Institutions*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, Introduction

Gerald Curtis. 1999. *The Logic of Japanese Politics*. Columbia University Press, Chapter 1.

Steven R. Reed. 1991. "Structure and Behaviour: Extending Duverger's Law to the Japanese Case." *British Journal of Political Science* 29: 335-56.

Chalmers Johnson. 1999. "The Developmental State, Odyssey of a Concept," in Meredith Woo-Cumings ed. *The Developmental State*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press: pp. 32-43.

J. Mark Ramseyer and Frances McCall Rosenbluth. 1993. *Japan's Political Marketplace*.: Harvard University Press: 99-120.

1/24: From Economic Miracle to Stagnation

Takeo Hoshi and Takatoshi Ito. *The Japanese Economy*. MIT Press, Chapter 3.

Mary C. Brinton. 1992. *Women and the Economic Miracle: Gender and Work in Postwar Japan*. University of California Press, Chapter 1.

William Grimes. 2001. "Introduction: A Miracle Unmade" and "Organizational Conflict" in *Unmaking the Japanese Miracle: Macroeconomic Politics, 1985-2000*. Cornell: Cornell University Press.

Richard Katz. 2003. *Japanese Phoenix*. Routledge, pg. 25-39.

Jennifer Amyx. 2001. "Informality and Institutional Inertia: The Case of Japanese Financial Regulation" *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, pp. 47-66.

Robert Reich. 1992. "Is Japan Out to Get Us?" *New York Times*, February 9.

1/31: Political and Economic Transformation

Frances Rosenbluth and Michael F. Thies 2010. *Japan Transformed: Political Change and Economic Restructuring*. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. "Chapter 7: Japan's New Political Economy," pp. 123-154.

Gregory W. Noble. 2010. "The Decline of Particularism in Japanese Politics." *Journal of East Asian Studies* 10:239-273.

Ulrike Schaede. 2012. "From developmental state to the 'New Japan': the strategic inflection point in Japanese business." *Asia Pacific Business Review* 18 (2): 167-185.

Steven K. Vogel. 2018. *Marketcraft*, Cornell University Press: 77-116.

Kenji Kushida. 2022/2023. "Ready for Prime Time: Japan's Maturing Startup Ecosystem" and "The People Powering Japan's Startup Ecosystem." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

2/7: The DPJ and Abe/Suga/Kishida Governments

Kenji E. Kushida, and Phillip Y. Lipscy. 2013. "The Rise and Fall of the Democratic Party of Japan." In *Japan Under the DPJ: The Politics of Transition and Governance*, edited by Kenji E. Kushida and Phillip Y. Lipscy. Stanford: Brookings/APARC.

Harukata Takenaka. 2019. "Expansion of the Prime Minister's Power in the Japanese Parliamentary System: Transformation of Japanese Politics and Institutional Reforms." *Asian Survey* 59 (5): 844-869.

Steve Reed and Yukio Maeda. 2021. "The LDP under Abe." In Takeo Hoshi and Phillip Y. Lipscy eds. *The Political Economy of the Abe Government and Abenomics Reforms*. Cambridge University Press.

Gene Park, Saori N. Katada, Giacomo Chiozza, and Yoshiko Kojo. 2018. *Taming Japan's Deflation: the Debate over Unconventional Monetary Policy*. Cornell University Press, Chapter 8.

2/14: Term Test 1

2/21: No Class, reading week

2/28: Japan in the Liberal International Order

G. John. Ikenberry. 2015. "The Stakeholder State: Ideology and Values in Japan's Search for a Post-Cold War Global Role." In Funabashi, Yoichi and Barak Kushner eds., *Examining Japan's Lost Decades*. London and New York: Routledge. pp. 296-313.

Mireya Solis. 2017. *Dilemmas of a Trading Nation: Japan and the United States in the Evolving Asia-Pacific Order*. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press. "Chapter 11: Conclusion: Forging a New Economic Asia-Pacific Order" (pp. 211-223).

Phillip Y. Lipsky and Nobuhiko Tamaki. 2022. "Japan and International Organizations." In Robert J. Pekkanen and Saadia M. Pekkanen eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Japanese Politics*.

Yuka Koshino and Robert Ward. 2022. *Japan's Effectiveness as a Geo-Economic Actor: Navigating Great Power Competition*. IISS, Introduction.

Liv Coleman. 2017. "Japan's Womenomics Diplomacy: Fighting Stigma and Constructing ODA Leadership on Gender Equality." *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 18 (4): 491-513.

3/6: International Security

Jennifer Lind and Chisako Kawakatsu Ueki. 2021. "Is Japan Back? Measuring Nationalism and Military Assertiveness in Asia's Other Great Power." *Journal of East Asian Studies* 21: 367-401.

Amy Catalinac. 2015. "From Pork to Policy: The Rise of Programmatic Campaigning in Japanese Elections." *The Journal of Politics*. 78 (1) :1-18.

Michael Green. 2022. *Line of Advantage: Japan's Grand Strategy in the Era of Abe Shinzo*. Columbia University Press, Chapter 2 "China."

Adam Liff. 2023. "Kishida the Accelerator: Japan's Defense Evolution After Abe." *The Washington Quarterly* 46(1): 63-83.

Saadia M. Pekkanen. 2023. "Space and the US–Japan alliance: reflections on Japan's geopolitical and geoeconomic strategy." *Japanese Journal of Political Science*. 24: 64-79.

3/13: The Politics of Economic and Social Adjustment

Kent Calder. 2017. *Circles of Compensation: Economic Growth and the Globalization of Japan*. Stanford University Press, Chapter 1.

Patricia L. Maclachlan and Kay Shimizu 2021. "Japanese Agricultural Reform Under Abenomics." In Takeo Hoshi and Phillip Y. Lipsky eds. *The Political Economy of the Abe Government and Abenomics Reforms*. Cambridge University Press.

Tom Phuong Le. 2021. *Japan's Aging Peace: Pacifism and Militarism in the Twenty-First Century*. Columbia University Press. Chapter 3, "Who Will Fight? The JSDF's Demographic Crises."

Michael Strausz. 2021. "Immigration and Democracy in Japan." In Robert J. Pekkanen and Saadia M. Pekkanen eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Japanese Politics*.

Gill Steel and Sherry Martin. 2021. "Gender and Politics in Japan." In Robert J. Pekkanen and Saadia M. Pekkanen eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Japanese Politics*.

3/20: Energy and Climate Change

Trevor Incerti and Phillip Y. Lipsky. 2020. "The Politics of Energy in Japan." *The Oxford Handbook of Energy Politics*.

Richard Samuels. 2013. *3.11: Disaster and Change in Japan*, Chapter 5 (Debating Energy Policy)

Jacques E.C. Hymans. 2021. "Losing Steam: Why Does Japan Produce So Little Geothermal Power?" *Social Science Japan Journal* 24 (1): 45-65.

Jane Nakano. "Japan Seeks Carbon Neutrality by 2050." <https://www.csis.org/analysis/japan-seeks-carbon-neutrality-2050>

Climate Action Tracker: <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/japan/>

3/27: Japan's Response to COVID-19

Daniel P. Aldrich and Toshiaki Yoshida. 2020. "How Japan Stumbled into a Pandemic Miracle." *Current History*. 119 (818): 217-221.

Phillip Y. Lipsky. 2023. "Japan's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic." In Robert J. Pekkanen, Steven R. Reed, Daniel M. Smith eds. *Japan Decides 2021: The Japanese General Election*. Palgrave Macmillan. pg. 239-254.

Yukio Maeda. 2023. "Public Opinion and COVID-19." In Robert J. Pekkanen, Steven R. Reed, Daniel M. Smith eds. *Japan Decides 2021: The Japanese General Election*. Palgrave Macmillan. pg. 167-182.

Kerstin Lukner. 2023. "COVID-19: The International Dimension." In Robert J. Pekkanen, Steven R. Reed, Daniel M. Smith eds. *Japan Decides 2021: The Japanese General Election*. Palgrave Macmillan. pg. 333-345.

4/3: Term Test 2

4/5: Short Essay Deadline

Additional Information

Plagiarism Detection Tool

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

Religious Accommodations

As a student at the University of Toronto, you are part of a diverse community that welcomes and includes students and faculty from a wide range of cultural and religious traditions. For my part, I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. Further to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (such as a test or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have an acute or ongoing disability issue or accommodation need, you should register with Accessibility Services (AS) at the beginning of the academic year by visiting <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/>. Without registration, you will not be able to verify your situation with your instructors, and instructors will not be advised about your accommodation needs. AS will assess your situation, develop an accommodation plan with you, and support you in requesting accommodation for your course work. Remember that the process of accommodation is private: AS will not share details of your needs or condition with any instructor, and your instructors will not reveal that you are registered with AS.

Academic Integrity

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019) (<https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>). If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, please reach out to me. Note that you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from me or from other institutional resources. For example, to learn more about how to cite and use source material appropriately and for other writing support, see the U of T writing support website at

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca>. Consult the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters for a complete outline of the University's policy and expectations. For more information, please see [A&S Student Academic Integrity \(https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity\)](https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity) and the [University of Toronto Website on Academic Integrity \(https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca\)](https://www.academicintegrity.utoronto.ca).

Specific Medical Circumstances

If you become ill and it affects your ability to do your academic work, consult me right away. Normally, I will ask you for documentation in support of your specific medical circumstances. This documentation can be an Absence Declaration (via ACORN) or the University's Verification of Student Illness or Injury (VOI) form. The VOI indicates the impact and severity of the illness, while protecting your privacy about the details of the nature of the illness. If you cannot submit a VOI due to limits on terms of use, you can submit a different form (like a letter from a doctor), as long as it is an original document, and it contains the same information as the VOI (including dates, academic impact, practitioner's signature, phone and registration number). For more information on the VOI, please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca>. For information on Absence Declaration Tool for A&S students, please see <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/absence>. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

Accommodation for Personal Reasons

There may be times when you are unable to complete course work on time due to non-medical reasons. If you have concerns, speak to me or to an advisor in your College Registrar's office; they can help you to decide if you want to request an extension or other forms of academic consideration. They may be able to email your instructors directly to provide a College Registrar's letter of support and connect you with other helpful resources on campus.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

The University of Toronto is committed to equity, human rights and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect where all members of our community can express themselves, engage with each other, and respect one another's differences. U of T does not condone discrimination or harassment against any persons or communities.

Quercus Info

This Course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. New information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at <https://q.utoronto.ca>. SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE: Please also note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are

considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.