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POL307H1S: Japanese Politics

Winter, 2022-2023

Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00

Location: BL325

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. In light of the continuing impact of COVID-19, 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 tests.

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: 4/7.

Term Test 1 (25%): An open book & open note take home test will be administered during the class session on 2/15 (10am-12pm) 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 4/5 (10am-12pm) 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.

1/11: Introduction & Overview

Phillip Y. Lipsky 2022. "Japan: The Harbinger State." *Japanese Journal of Political Science*.

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

1/18: 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. 1988. *The Japanese Way of 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.

1/25: 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.

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

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.

2/1: 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. 2016. "Japan's Startup Ecosystem: From Brave New World to Part of Syncretic 'New Japan.'" *Asian Research Policy* 7 (1): 67-77.

2/8: 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.

2/15: Midterm Test

2/22: No Class, reading week

3/1: 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.

3/8: International Security

Andrew Oros. 2017. *Japan's Security Renaissance: New Policies and Politics for the Twenty-First Century*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. "Chapter 5: The New Conservative Mainstream and New Security Policies Under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, 2012-2016 (pp. 126-168)."

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

Adam Liff. 2018. "Japan's Security Policy in the 'Abe Era': Radical Transformation or Evolutionary Shift?" *Texas National Security Review* 1 (3): 8-34.

Saadia M. Pekkanen and Paul Kallender-Umezu. 2010. *In Defense of Japan: From the Market to the Military in Space Policy*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, Chapter 7 “In Defense of Japan.”

Jennifer Lind. 2022. “Japan Steps Up: How Asia’s Rising Threats Convinced Tokyo to Abandon Its Defense Taboos.” *Foreign Affairs*. December 23.

3/15: 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*.

3/22: 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/>

3/29: Japan's Response to COVID-19

Readings will be posted on Quercus as events evolve.

4/5: Term Test

4/7: Short Essay Deadline

Additional Information

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The [University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor in all relevant courses
- Making up sources or facts
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test
- Misrepresenting your identity

In academic work:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*. 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, the [University of Toronto website on Academic Integrity](#)).

Plagiarism

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>).

The use of AI essay writing tools such as ChatGPT for class assignments falls under unauthorized aids and assistance under the Academic Integrity policy. Any use of such tools is strictly prohibited, even if the output is edited by the student. We will use tools such as OpenAI GPT-2 Output Detector to identify violations of this policy, and violations will be treated the same way we treat other instances of cheating and plagiarism.

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.

Students with Disabilities or Accommodation Requirements

The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs.

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Accessibility Services office: [Accessibility Services on the St. George campus](#)

Health and Mental Health Issues

It is not uncommon for university students to experience a range of health and mental health issues that may result in barriers to achieving their academic goals. The University of Toronto offers a wide range of services that may be of assistance. You are encouraged to seek out these resources early and often.

On Campus: Your college Registrar's Office, and / or Dean of Students' Office
Student Life - <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca>
Health and Wellness Centre - <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc>
Off-Campus: Good2Talk - a post-secondary (24/7) helpline (1-866-925-5454).

Family Care Responsibilities

The University of Toronto strives to provide a family-friendly environment. You may wish to inform me if you are a student with family responsibilities. If you are a student parent or have

family responsibilities, you also may wish to visit the Family Care Office website at familycare.utoronto.ca.

Religious Accommodations

The University provides reasonable accommodation of the needs of students who observe religious holy days other than those already accommodated by ordinary scheduling and statutory holidays. Students have a responsibility to alert members of the teaching staff in a timely fashion to upcoming religious observances and anticipated absences and instructors will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations or other compulsory activities at these times.

Please reach out to me as early as possible to communicate any anticipated absences related to religious observances, and to discuss any possible related implications for course work.

Specific Medical Circumstances

For 2022 S-term, a Verification of Illness (also known as a "doctor's note") is temporarily not required. Students who are absent from academic participation for any reason (e.g., COVID, cold, flu and other illness or injury, family situation) and who require consideration for missed academic work should report their absence through the online absence declaration. The declaration is available on ACORN under the Profile and Settings menu. Students should also advise their instructor of their absence.

If an absence extends beyond 14 consecutive days, or if you have a non-medical personal situation preventing you from completing your academic work, you should connect with your College Registrar. They can provide advice and assistance reaching out to instructors on your behalf. If you get a concussion, break your hand, or suffer some other acute injury, you should register with Accessibility Services as soon as possible.