

## POL 321: Japanese Government and Politics

Instructor: Koichi Nakano  
Spring Semester  
M. Th. 11am-12:30pm

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### Course Description

Starting with the prewar political system and the reforms under the Allied Occupation, this course gives an overview of Japanese *domestic* politics (Japanese foreign policy is treated in a separate course offered by Professor Anno).

### Required Texts

The following core textbook can be purchased at Enderle. It is also on the reserve shelf.

J.A.A. Stockwin, *Governing Japan* (4th ed.)

An “\*” indicates that the material is on reserve. A “+” indicates that the material can be downloaded from Moodle.

### Course Requirements

All students are required to do the assigned reading, attend lectures, actively participate in discussions, and take the mid-term and final examinations. The mid-term exam will test the students’ knowledge and understanding of postwar Japanese political history and institutions. The final exam will be a take-home paper. The questions will be given well in advance of the due date, and you will be encouraged to write comparatively. Please note that electronic submissions of the essays are NOT accepted.

### Evaluation

The final grade for the course is determined as follows:

Class Participation 20%

Mid-Term Exam 35%

Final Paper 45%

Note that poor attendance or plagiarism results in an automatic “F” however well you do otherwise. The Final Paper must be submitted in hard copies.

## Course Outline and Reading

### **I. Introduction**

### **II. Historical Background**

#### **State and Modernization in Meiji and Taishō**

\*Stockwin, *Governing Japan*, chapter 2

+Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*, chapters 5 and 8

#### **Shōwa and the Asia-Pacific War**

+Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*, chapters 11 and 12

#### **Allied Occupation**

\*Stockwin, *Governing Japan*, chapter 4 (pp. 48-63)

+John Dower, *Embracing Defeat*, chapters 12 and 13

#### **Constitution**

\*Stockwin, *Governing Japan*, chapter 10

### **III. LDP One-Party Dominance (1955 Political System)**

#### **Yoshida-Kishi (1946-1960): The Making of Postwar Conservatism**

#### **Ikeda-Satō (1960-1972): The Politics of High-Speed Growth**

#### **Tanaka-Suzuki (1972-1982): LDP's Years of Strife**

#### **Nakasone (1982-1987): The New Right and Conservative Resurgence**

#### **Takeshita-Miyazawa (1987-1993): Scandals, Breakup, and Downfall**

\*Stockwin, *Governing Japan*, chapter 4 and chapter 5 (pp. 76-82)

\*Curtis, *Japanese Way of Politics*

\*Curtis, *Logic of Japanese Politics*, chapter 2

### **IV. Postwar Political Institutions in Flux**

#### **Electoral Law, Political Reform, and Party Realignment**

\*Stockwin, *Governing Japan*, chapters 8 and 9

\*Curtis, *Logic of Japanese Politics*, chapters 3 and 4

#### **Bureaucracy and Administrative Reform**

\*Stockwin, *Governing Japan*, chapter 7

+T.J. Pempel, "Organizing for Efficiency" in Ezra Suleiman, *Bureaucrats and Policy-Making*

+Chalmers Johnson, "Japan: Who Governs?" in his *Japan: Who Governs?*

+Koichi Nakano, "Politics of Administrative Reform in Japan, 1993-1998" in *Asian Survey*, vol. 38, no. 3 (1998)

#### **Interest Groups in a Globalizing Economy**

T.J. Pempel, *Policy and Politics in Japan*, chapter 2

+Stockwin (ed.), *Dynamic and Immobilist Politics in Japan*, A.George's chapter

- +Pempel, “Regime Shift” in *The Journal of Japanese Studies*, vol. 23, no. 2 (Summer 1997)
- +Steve Vogel, “Can Japan Disengage?” in *Social Science Japan Journal*, vol. 2, no. 1 (1999)

**Media and Society: A More Assertive Nation?**

- +Laurie Freeman, *Closing the Shop*, chapter 2
- +Sheldon Garon, “From Meiji to Heisei: The State and Civil Society in Japan” in Schwartz and Pharr (eds.), *State of Civil Society in Japan*
- +Naoko Shimazu (eds.), *Nationalisms in Japan*, chapters 6 (Rose) and 7 (Takahashi)

**V. End of LDP Hegemony, Coalition Politics, and DPJ-led Government**

**Hosokawa-Murayama (1993-1996): Dynamics of Coalition Politics**

**Hashimoto-Mori (1996-2001): Ruling over the Lost Decade**

**Koizumi (2001-2006): Messiah or Fraudster?**

**Abe-Asō (2006-2009): Living off the Family Legacy**

**Hatoyama (2009-): DPJ Triumphs**

- \*Stockwin, *Governing Japan*, chapters 5 and 6

**VI. Conclusion**