

Japanese Politics and Society
日本の政治学

Henry Laurence x 3528
38 College Street (Asian Studies Building)

Mon/Wed/Fri 10.30-11.25
Pickering Room, Hubbard Hall

Office Hours: Weds 4-5.30 pm and Fridays 2-4 pm or by appointment. These hours may vary from week to week so please pay attention to classwide emails.

The course explores the nature of Japanese democracy. We look at modern Japan from the Meiji Restoration of 1868, via the nation-building of the 1945 Occupation to the struggles between the Liberal Democratic Party and the opposition groups today. We give particular consideration to key areas of government policy including achieving high economic growth with equality, gender inequality and the declining birthrate, healthcare, education, civil society, “Cool Japan” and foreign relations.

Readings

The following are available for purchase at the Bowdoin Bookstore, and are also available on 2 hour reserve at the Hawthorne-Longfellow Library:

Books Ordered

Ian Neary *The State and Politics in Japan* (Cambridge: Polity Press 2002)

Yoshio Sugimoto *An Intro to Japanese Society* 4th Edition (Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press 2014)

Jeffrey Kingston *Japan in Transformation 1945-2010* (Longman 2010)

Jeffrey Kingston (ed) *Critical Issues in Contemporary Japan* (London and New York: Routledge, 2014)

Frances McCall Rosenbluth and Michael Thies *Japan Transformed* (Princeton: Princeton U. Press, 2010)

Other readings are available through the library website or on Blackboard. (* denotes BB reading)

Requirements:

- **Participation:** Attend all class sessions, and participate in discussions. Read all assigned readings before the session for which they are set.

- **Current events:** Students should regularly follow current events in Japan in at least one quality newspaper or journal. Your knowledge of current events will be tested with in-class pop quizzes as well as both the midterm and final exams, and will improve your short papers.

I may give out short tests at random asking you to summarize one or more of the week's readings or answer basic current events questions.

- **Midterm examination** (in class)

- **Short Papers** (4 x 3-4 pages) Most weeks, one or more study questions will be given in class [and posted on blackboard]. 5 times during the semester, write a short paper, (1000 words or about 3-4 pages, but going over this amount is fine) answering one of these questions and using evidence drawn from (but not limited to) ALL of the readings assigned for the week/topic (or all which are relevant). You must have completed at least one paper by the midterm and at least three by the end of Thanksgiving break. There is no rewrite option. You may write more than 4: your best 4 will count towards your course grade.

Final Exam OR Final Paper

2-Hour final exam covering all aspects of the course

OR

You may write about 5-7 pages on any aspect of the course that interests you, subject to my approval. Usually you must have earned an average grade of at least B+ in the class so far to get approval. To qualify, you must submit a 2-page proposal by the final day of class. You may turn it in at any time before 5.00 pm on the date of the final. Usually this will be a research paper, but other forms of writing are possible, subject to my approval. (eg a book or movie review tying the book(s)/movie(s) to the themes and readings of the class)

GRADING POLICY

All grades contain irreducible elements of subjectivity, and the following percentages are given *only as rough guide* to the relative importance of each assignment and NOT as a strict formula. Please note that I expect you to perform satisfactorily in ALL aspects of coursework. Poor performance or outright failure in any aspect one may disproportionately affect your final grade, and could result in failing the class.

Midterm:	10 %
4 x 3-4-page papers	4 x 12.5 = 50%
Final exam/paper	20 %
Class participation/tests	20 %

A ROUGH GUIDE TO YOUR CLASS PARTICIPATION GRADE:

A Does all the reading and typically comes to class armed with thorough understanding, lively responses and further questions. Contributes intelligently; listens to and then responds to others. Proactive in initiating and sustaining illuminating discussion. Demonstrates excellent knowledge of current events.

B Does all the reading, contributes regularly. Scores well on tests.

C Does most of the reading, comes regularly to class, and says something, but usually only if called upon. Average test scores

D Comes to class but doesn't usually have much to say about the reading or the discussion.

F Misses classes; and is unable to demonstrate familiarity with readings. Almost never says anything unless asked directly.

CITATIONS and ACADEMIC HONESTY

Citations have two main purposes. (1) To acknowledge and give appropriate credit for other people's work or ideas. (2) To allow your reader to locate (and if necessary consult) your sources

When you use information or ideas that came from someone or somewhere else, you must therefore acknowledge the source appropriately. Deliberate attempts to pass off someone else's work as your own will result in automatic failure of the course and referral to the Judicial Board. \

You may use any recognized citation format as long as you are consistent. If in doubt, please use the Chicago Manual of Style 'Notes and Bibliography' format. Quick guides, online and in pdf format, are available on the library website (Citing Sources/Chicago Quick Guide).

PAPER POLICIES

Double-space. Use regular margins (Word default is 1 ¼ inch) and a normal font. (Times 12 point preferred).

Quotations longer than 3 lines should be indented and single-spaced. (“Normal Indent” in Word’s Format/Style menu)

Include PAGE-NUMBERS and DATE.

PROOF-READ. Do NOT just run spell-checker, which often misses basic errors, eg it’s vs. its. Handwritten corrections are welcome.

Include a BIBLIOGRAPHY of all and only the sources you have cited if they are not assigned readings. (Start on a new page. Alphabetize by Author’s last name)

Papers must be submitted in HARD COPY and STAPLED

Going over page limits is fine.

A ROUGH GUIDE TO YOUR PAPER GRADE:

What I expect from a B range paper:

Makes a clear and compelling argument that directly answers the assigned question. Weighs all the available evidence in coming to the conclusion, and uses the best evidence in support of that conclusion. Carefully considers the strongest objections or alternative arguments, and demonstrates why the author’s argument is superior. Defines key terms appropriately. Avoids logical errors in argumentation or errors of fact. Writing style is clear, concise, and error-free.

A range: Typically demonstrates innovative or fresh thinking rather than a straight recapitulation of the arguments of others. Usually draws on evidence or material beyond the assigned readings if appropriate. Alternatively, the paper may do a particularly good job of drawing fresh connections between past and current material.

C range: falls short of some of the standards for a B paper, but it must:

- (1) make a clear argument;
- (2) demonstrate familiarity with the readings;
- (3) be grammatically correct
- (4) be free from factual errors
- (5) follow ALL ELEVEN rules listed in “Paper Policies” and citation guidelines.

Papers which fail on one or more of these basic standards will be in the D or F range.

Provisional Reading and Class Schedule.
(Subject to change: Please check classwide emails)

* Indicates a reading on Blackboard

[...] Indicates reading is Required for paper-writing on that topic, but not required for class.

All journal and newspaper articles are available through the library website or online.

W 8/30	Introduction	
M 9/4	History Meiji	Neary Ch 1
W 9/6	Taisho	Neary Ch 2 (7-36) Rosenbluth and Thies 2 and 3 (15-42)
F 9/8	The Occupation	Neary 3 (37-55) Kingston Ch 2 (US Occupation) (8-16)
M 9/11	“The 1955 System”	Kingston JIT Ch 3 19-30 Rosenbluth and Thies Ch 4 (53-71)
W 9/13	1955 System (cont)	Neary Ch 4 LDP (59-76) [Neary Ch 5 JSP etc (77-87)]
F 9/15		[*Daniel Okimoto LDP Dominance]
M 9/18	Transformation	Neary Ch 6 (88-106)
W 9/20	Electoral Reform	Rosenbluth and Thies Ch 6 (95-122)
F 9/22	Fall and Rise of the LDP 2009-2012	Rosenbluth and Thies Ch 9 and epilogue Kingston Chs 9 and 10 [Krauss, Ellis and Pekkanen, Rob “The Rise and Fall of Japan’s LDP” <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> 69.1 Feb 2010] * Kushida, Kenji and Philip Lipscy “Japan Under the DPJ” Ch 1 in Kushida and Lipscy (eds) <i>Japan Under the DPJ</i> (Stanford U Press) 2013 [Pekkanen, Robert “The 2012 Japanese Election Paradox: How the LDP lost Voters and Won the Election” <i>National Bureau of Asian Research</i> < www.nbr.org > 2012]
M 9/25	3.11	* Kenji Kushida “DPJ response to 3.11”

		* Gerald Curtis Stop Blaming Japanese Culture for Fukushima Financial Times 7/10/2012
W 9/27	Political Economy	Neary pp 109-120 & Neary 175-176n [Ch 11] Kingston Ch 4 (Economic Miracle) * Chalmers Johnson “Market vs Plan Rationality
F 9/29		Rosenbluth and Thies Ch 5 [Sugimoto Ch 4 Cultural Capitalism (91-125)] [Sugimoto Ch 8]
M 10/2	Current Challenges	Ken McElwain “The Anomalous Life of Japan’s Constitution” Nippon.com 2017
W 10/4	Abenomics	Kingston Ch 8 Demographic timebomb
F 10/6	The New Economy?	Laurence “Will Pokémon Go Power Up Japan’s Cool Economy?” <i>The Diplomat</i> 2016
M 10/9	Fall Break No Class	
W 10/11		Review Session
F 10/13		Midterm Exam
M 10/16	Healthcare	Neary Ch 12 * Reid <i>The Healing of America</i> chs 2, 3, 6
W 10/18		*Readings from <i>The Lancet</i> 2011 Special Issue Japanese Healthcare at 50.
F 10/20		CICJ 17 (Horiguchi “Mental Health”)
M 10/23	Education	Sugimoto Ch on Education
W 10/25		CICJ Ch 18 Aspinall “Violence in Schools” * Catherine Lewis <i>Educating Hearts and Minds</i> Intro, Ch 8 (178-201)
F 10/27		*Thomas Rohlen “Japan’s High Schools”
M 10/30	Gender Politics	Sugimoto 6 (Gender)

		Neary Ch 13 “Human Rights” (pp 201-207) (section on women)
W 11/1	Birthrate Politics	CICJ 18 (Htun “Reproductive rights”) *Tiana Norgren “Abortion Before Birth Control” <i>Journal of Japanese Studies</i> 24:1 1998 (JSTOR)
F 11/3	Minorities	CICJ 16 (Cleveland “Minorities” pp 213-221) Neary Ch 13 (207-218, minorities) Sugimoto Ch 7
M 11/6 Law, Culture and Society	Law, culture and society	* Kawashima/Noda and Tanaka (Okimoto and Rohlen #s 38 & 39 pp 191-195), *Haley “The Myth of the Reluctant Litigant” <i>Journal of Japanese Studies</i> Summer 1978 *Steven Reed <i>Making Common Sense of Japan</i> Ch 2 (25-46) [CICJ Ch 5 (Repeta “Rights Protection and the Supreme Court”) pp 37-51]
W 11/8	Civil Society	* Mary Alice Haddad “Civic Responsibility Around the World” CICJ Ch 4 (Ogawa “Civil Society”) pp 52-62 [Nathan “The New Nationalism”]
F11/10	Media	CICJ Ch 5 McNeill “Media” pp 64-73 H Laurence “NHK and Abe’s Agenda” <i>The Diplomat</i> online 2/8/14
M 11/13	Nationalism	Kingston Ch 5
W 11/15	War memory	CICJ 10 (Saaler: Good War?)
F 11/17	Yakuza	
M 11/20		* Haruki Murakami <i>After the Quake</i> “Superfrog Saves Tokyo”
W 11/22	Thanksgiving	
F 11/24	Thanksgiving	
M 11/29 Foreign Relations	Pop Culture and Soft Power	No Reading
W 11/29	Soft Power	* D McCray “Japan’s Gross National Cool” <i>Foreign Policy</i> May 2002

		* David Leheney “A Narrow Place to Cross Swords: Soft Power and Pop Culture” (2006) [Sugimoto ch 9 on Pop Culture]
F 12/1	Security Policy	Neary Ch 10 (161-174) Kingston Ch 6 (Security) (51-60) * Berger “Pragmatic Liberalism of Adaptive State”
M 12/4	US-Japan relations	CICJ 13 Okinawa
W 12/6	China	* Tom Berger “Politics of Memory” [* Mike Mochizuki “Dealing with a Rising China” (from T. Berger, ed. <i>Japan in International Politics</i>)]
F 12/8	Korea	CICJ Ch 11 (Selden)
F 12/15	<i>Final Exam</i> <i>Final Papers</i>	9.00-11.00 am Pickering Room Final papers due in my mailbox by 5.00 pm

* denotes reading is available on blackboard.

[square brackets] denote a reading is required if you are writing a paper, but is merely recommended but NOT required for class discussion or exam preparation.

Other readings are all available online through the library website (usually JSTOR or Academic Search Complete) or publicly available online and searchable with google.