

Japanese Politics and Society

日本の政治学

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

Mon/Wed 10.05-11.30
Pickering Room, Hubbard Hall

Office Hours: Thursdays 2-4, Fridays 2-3
These hours may vary from week to week so please pay attention to classwide emails.

Comprehensive overview of modern Japanese politics in historical, social, and cultural context. Analyzes the electoral dominance of the Liberal Democratic Party, the nature of democratic politics, and the rise and fall of the economy. Other topics include the status of women and ethnic minorities, education, war guilt, nationalism, and the role of the media.

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

Alisa Gaunder *Japanese Politics and Government* (Routledge 2017)

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

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]. 4 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 weeks/topic (or all which are relevant). Typically the paper will be due approximately one week after the question(s) are distributed. 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

3-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

Papers must be submitted in HARD COPY and STAPLED

Going over page limits is fine.

Include PAGE-NUMBERS and DATE.

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

Include a BIBLIOGRAPHY of all and only the sources you have cited. (Start on a new page. Alphabetize by Author's last name)

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

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

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."

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)

Bibliographic Details

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

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

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

KEY

* = Reading is on Blackboard

[...] = Reading *required* for paper-writing on that topic, but only *recommended* for class.

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

W 8/29	Introduction	
Week 1	Prewar History	
M 9/3	History and Culture	Gaunder Chs 1 and 2 Rosenbluth and Thies 2
W 9/5	Taisho to WW2	Rosenbluth and Thies Ch 3
Week 2	The Occupation	
M 9/10	The Occupation	Gaunder Ch 3 Kingston Ch 2 (US Occupation) [* Neary Ch 3 Occupation and Aftermath)]

W 9/12	“1955 System”	Gaunder Ch 4 *Ken McElwain “The Anomalous Life of Japan’s Constitution” <i>Nippon.com</i> 2017
Week 3	The LDP and Elections	
M 9/17	The LDP and elections	Gaunder Ch 5 [*Daniel Okimoto LDP Dominance] [Rosenbluth and Thies Ch 4 “The Old Politics”])
W 9/19	Party Politics	Gaunder Ch 6 “Elections and Electioneering”) Kingston Ch 3 “Post-War politics” Rosenbluth and Thies Ch 6 (95-122)
Week 4	Politics in Boom and Bust	
M 9/24	The Politics of High Growth	Gaunder Ch 7 “Economic Miracle” * Chalmers Johnson “Market vs Plan Rationality” Kingston Ch 4 (“Economic Miracle”) [Rosenbluth and Thies Ch 5]
W 9/26	Fall and Rise of the LDP	Kingston Ch 9 Rosenbluth and Thies Ch 9 and epilogue [Krauss, Ellis and Pekkanen, Rob “The Rise and Fall of Japan’s LDP” <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> 69.1 Feb 2010] [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]
Week 5	Review and Midterm	
M 10/1	Review and Catchup.	No Reading
W 10/3	Midterm Exam	No Reading
Week 6		
M 10/8	Fall Break No Class	

W 10/10	Media and Politics	*D McNeil “Japan’s Contemporary Media” (Ch 5 in CICJ) *Krauss “NHK: the politics of semi-independence”
Week 7	Explaining Policy	
M 10/15	Policymaking	*Greg Noble “Who, if anyone, is in charge? Political Power and Bureaucratic Delegation,” Ch 11 in Gill Steel (ed) <i>Power in Contemporary Japan</i> (Palgrave Macmillan 2016) Gaunder Ch 9 *Muramatsu and Krauss “Patterned Pluralism”
W 10/17	Civil Society	Gaunder Ch 10 * Mary Alice Haddad “Civic Responsibility Around the World” * S. Reed “Culture as Common Sense”
Week 8	Gender and Politics	
M 10/22	Women and Politics	Kingston Ch 7 Gelb Chs 1, 5 [2]
W 10/24	Birthrate Politics	*Tiana Norgren “Abortion Before Birth Control” <i>Journal of Japanese Studies</i> 24:1 1998 (JSTOR) [*CICJ 18 (Htun “Reproductive rights”)] [*Gelb Ch 4]
Week 9	Demographic Politics	
M 10/29	Aging and the birthrate	Kingston Ch 8 TBA
W 10/31	Immigration and minority politics	* Kingston “Demographic Dilemmas: women and immigration” (Ch 14 in Kingston (ed) CICJ) TBA
Week 10	Social Issues	
M 11/5	Healthcare	* Reid Chs 2, 3 6 *Ikegami et al. “Universal Health Coverage: evolution” (<i>Lancet</i> , 2011)
W 11/7	Law 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

Week 11	Education	
M 11/12	Education	* Catherine Lewis <i>Educating Hearts and Minds</i> Intro, Ch 8 (178-201) *Thomas Rohlen “Japan’s High Schools” TBA
W 11/14	Education (cont)	* Katherine Tegtmeier Pak “Contesting Children’s Citizenship Information: What should Japanese Schoolchildren Know” Ch 2 in Gill Steel (ed) <i>Power in Contemporary Japan</i> (Palgrave Macmillan 2016) * Tom Berger “Politics of Memory”
Week 12	Nationalism	
M 11/19	Nationalism	Kingston Ch 5 H Laurence “NHK and Abe’s Agenda” <i>The Diplomat online</i> 2/8/14 [Nathan “The New Nationalism”] [* CICJ 10 (Saaler: Good War)]
W 11/21	Thanksgiving	
Week 13	Foreign Relations	
M 11/26	Cool Japan	* Haruki Murakami <i>After the Quake</i> “Superfrog Saves Tokyo”
W 11/28	Soft Power Diplomacy	* 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) [*Marie Thorsten “Soft power Convergence and Democracy in Abe’s Japan” Ch 14 in Gill Steel (ed) <i>Power in Contemporary Japan</i> (Palgrave Macmillan 2016)] [*Nancy Snow Soft Power Diplomacy]
Week 14	Foreign Policy	
M 12/3	Security Policy	Gaunder Ch 12 Kingston Ch 6 (Security) * Berger “Pragmatic Liberalism of Adaptive State”

W 12/5	Relations with Neighbors	* Mike Mochizuki “Dealing with a Rising China” (from T. Berger, ed. <i>Japan in International Politics</i>)
Thursday Dec 13 th	<i>Final Exam</i> <i>8.30 am</i> <i>Final Papers</i> <i>Due 5.00 pm</i>	