

Japanese Politics and Society

Mon/Wed/Fri 10.30 am – 11.25 pm
Fall 2002

Government 232
Asian Studies 282

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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs. 2.00 – 4.00 or by appointment.

The course examines state-society relations in contemporary Japan, and explores the nature of Japanese democracy. Topics include: party politics; the power of the bureaucracy; interest group representation; the political role of women; the media; and foreign relations. Special attention will be paid to the political and economic upheavals of the 1990s, and the challenges facing “Lionheart” -- Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi --in 2001. Questions include: what accounts for the stability and success of Japan’s “Conservative Coalition”? What accounts for Japan’s phenomenal economic success, and recent economic problems? How is policy made, and how much influence do political outsiders - including women and the opposition parties - have on policy-making? How will politics develop following the recent reforms, and is the era of “money politics” over? Finally, we consider Japan’s relations with its neighbours.

Readings

The following are available for purchase at the Bowdoin Bookstore, and are also available on 24 hour reserve at the Hawthorne-Longfellow Library:

Required Reading

Govt 232 Course Packet (See attached bibliography for individual readings)

JAA Stockwin Governing Japan: Divided Politics in Major Economy, 3rd ed. (Blackwell 1999)

TJ Pempel Regime Shift (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998)

Yoshio Sugimoto An Introduction to Japanese Society (Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, 1997)

Jacob Schlesinger Shadow Shoguns (Simon and Schuster 1997)

Okimoto, Daniel and Rohlen, Thomas, (eds) Inside the Japanese System (Stanford: Stanford U. Press, 1988)

Joe Moore (ed) The Other Japan: Conflict, Compromise and Resistance (New Edition) (New York: ME Sharpe, 1997)

Henry Laurence Money Rules: the New Politics of Finance in Britain and Japan (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2001)

Karl Taro Greenfeld Speed Tribes (HarperPerennial 1994)

Recommended Reading

Shintaro Ishinomori Japan Inc (The Comic Book) Vol. 2 (Sunnyvale, CA. Lanchester Press, 1996)

Birnbaum (ed) Monkey Brain Sushi: New Tastes in Japanese Fiction (Tokyo: Kodansha, 1991)

Requirements:

- **Participation:** Attend all class sessions, and participate in discussions. Read all assigned readings by the final (Friday) session of the week for which they are set at the latest. I will be giving out short reading tests at random on Fridays asking you to summarize one or more of the week's readings.

- **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 in both the midterm and final exams, and will improve your short papers.

- **Reading Memos/assignments** (6 x 2- 3 pages): Each Friday, one or more study questions will be handed out in class. Six times during the semester, write a short memo, (2-3 pages = approximately 600-1,000 words) addressing one of these questions and referring to the readings for the week. Memos are due at my mailbox in 38 College St. by 5.00pm the following Thursday at the latest. The assignment for week 2 is required. Thereafter, you may choose the specific weeks for which you write memos, but at least three must be completed before the midterm exam.

- **Midterm examination.**

Options:

The above are required. In addition, all students must do one of the following

A) **Final Exam**

Or

B) Research Paper. Write an 5-10 page paper going into greater depth on a contemporary political issue. Need an average grade of B or better to do this option, and the specific topic must be approved by me first. 2-page prospectus due before Thanksgiving, Final Draft due first day of exam period, Dec 13th.

Grading

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Midterm: | 15 % |
| Final Exam or research paper: | 20 % |
| Memos: | 50 % |
| Class participation/reading quizzes: | 15 % * |

* The class participation grade is necessarily subjective, but if you never say anything in class all semester, you'll probably get an "F" for this section.

Academic Honesty

When you use information or ideas that came from someone or somewhere else, you must acknowledge the source appropriately. Please check with me if you are in doubt. 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.

Readings and Lecture Guidelines, Fall 2001

- Aug 31 (F) Introduction
- Week 1 **PreWar History**
- Sept 3 (M) Early History
- Sept 5 (W) The Meiji Restoration, 1868
- Sept 7 (F) Road to WW2: 1868 - 1945
- R/J 7-10*
Stockwin Ch. 2
- Week 2 **Japanese Society**
- Sept 10 (M) “Reinventing Japan”
- Sept 12 (W) Japanese Society
- Sept 14 (F) Thinking about other countries
- Stockwin, Ch. 3*
R/J 13-16
Okimoto and Rohlen: #s 1-6 pp 1-24
Ueno and Burress (course packet)
- Week 3 **Postwar Politics**
- Sept 17 (M) “Inside Japan Inc.”
- Sept 19 (W) Political History, 1946-1989
- Sept 21 (F) Sources for LDP Success
- R/J 21-29*
Stockwin Chs 4,5
Okimoto and Rohlen #s 32-35, pp 171-184
- Week 4 **State-led Growth**
- Sept 24 (M) The Bureaucracy
- Sept 26 (W) Japanese-style Capitalism

- Sept 28 (F) Who Rules Japan?
Stockwin Ch.7
Sugimoto Ch. 8
† *Ramseyer and Rosenbluth*
† *Vogel “Japanese Successes: the state*
Okimoto and Rohlen #s 36, 37, 40, (Ikuta: Ch 1, 3)
- Week 5 **From Bubble to Bust: the Economy in the 1990s**
- Oct 1 (M) The Bubble Economy
- Oct 3 (W) The Banking Crisis
- Oct 5 (F) Capitalisms Compared: discussion

Ishinomori “Japan Inc” entire
Okimoto and Rohlen: #s 9,,15 , 16, 20, 44
† *Johnson “The Foundations of Japan’s Wealth and Power”*
- Week 6 **Politics in the 1990s**
- Oct 8 (M) FALL VACATION NO CLASS
- Oct 10 (W) The 1993 Election
- Oct 12 (F) The LDP wins back power

Stockwin chs 6,8,9
† *Jain “Party Politics at the Crossroads”*
† *Chalmers Johnson: Puppets and Puppeteers pp. 212-234*
- Week 7 **Review and Midterm**
- Oct 15 (M) KEI VISIT: No Class. Mandatory Presentation 4-6 pm
- Oct 17 (W) Review Session
- Oct 19 (F) *Midterm Examination*

Week 8

The Political Landscape in 2001

Oct 22 (M) Koizumi Wins Power: factions in 2001

Oct 24 (W) Policy Challenges for the LDP

Oct 26 (F) Prospects for Reform

† Sakakibara “Deregulation, Japanese-Style”
Others TBA

Week 9

Women and Minorities

Oct 29 (M) The Illusion of Homogeneity

Oct 31(W) Women in Politics

Nov 2 (F) Comparing Gender Roles

Sugimoto: Chs 6 & 7, pp 136-192
† Pharr: “Revolt of the Tea Pourers”
† Kubo and Gelb
† Ogasawara
† Iwao Japanese vs US women
Greenfeld “Keiko”

Week 10

Education

Nov 5 (M) High School Excellence

Nov 7 (W) Universities

Nov 9 (F) Comparison of US and Japanese educational systems.

Sugimoto Ch 5 pp 107-135
Okimoto and Rohlen #7, 52 & 53, pp 244-252
Greenfeld “Dai” “Hiro and Yoshihara”, “Tusk”
† White “The Japanese Educational Challenge”

Week 11

A Harmonious Society?

- Nov 12 (M) The Police and the Yakuza
- Nov 14 (W) Religious Groups and Nationalists
- Nov 16 (F) What explains Japan's Low Crime-rate

Sugimoto Ch 10

Okimoto and Rohlen #s 38 & 39 pp 191-195,

Greenfeld: "Izumi" "Tats", "Ozaki"

R/J 19

** Henry Laurence "Big Bang and the Sokaiya"*

(MOVIE: "MINBO: or, the Gentle Art of Japanese Extortion

Week 12 **Mass Media and Politics**

- Nov 19 (M) The Media in Politics: watchdog or mouthpiece?
- Nov 21 (W) Thanksgiving no class
- Nov 23 (F) Thanksgiving no class

Sugimoto: Ch 9 Popular Culture pp 220-244

R/J 20

Week 13 **Foreign Relations**

- Nov 26 (M) Explaining Foreign Policy Formation
- Nov 28 (W) Security Policy
- Nov 30 (F) Foreign Economic Policy

Stockwin 12, R/J 36, 39

Okimoto and Rohlen # 50, pp235-242

† Kent Calder: Explaining the Reactive State

† Krauss “Media Coverage of US-Japan Relations”

Week 14

Japan in the 21st Century

Dec 3 (M) Current issues in US-Japan relations

Dec 5 (W) Current issues in Japanese Politics

Dec 7 (F) Summing Up: Japan as Number One?

Reading TBA

Dec 8-11 Reading Period

Dec 12-17 Exam Period Final Exam TBA