

# Politics of Japan

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Office Hours: WF 2:50- 3:50 and by appointment

Office: SSCI 2044

Class Hours: MWF 2:00-2:50pm

Class Room: DSH-226

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## Course Description

This class is an introduction to the domestic politics of contemporary Japan. Students will learn about core concepts of comparative politics, including institutions, representation, political economy, and state-society relations, while focusing on the case of Japan. The goal of this class is to give student a basic understanding of Japanese politics and introduce them to major debates within the literature.

## Prerequisites

This class does not have any prerequisites. However, it is recommended that students have taken POLS220/POLS2110 (Introduction to Comparative Politics, Comparative Politics, or Politics around the World). No prior knowledge of Japan, the Japanese language, or Japanese politics is required.

## Political Science Program Student Learning Objectives

1. The students will demonstrate an ability to think critically regarding political problems, trends, and developments.
2. The students will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively.
3. The students will demonstrate strong analytical writing skills.
4. The students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of fundamental concepts and theories in political science.
5. The students will be able to apply political science theories and/or concepts to real-world cases or be able to apply a case or set of cases using an appropriate theory.

6. The students will be able to evaluate theories, either in light of empirical evidence or on theoretical grounds.
7. The students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of their rights and obligations as a citizen.

## Course Structure

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change.

## Important Dates and Deadlines

Quiz Due Dates:

Syllabus Quiz (Due Friday, 02/07/2020)

Historical Japan and Consequences for Contemporary Japanese Politics (Due Friday, 02/21/2020)

Electoral Politics and Political Institutions (Due Friday, 03/27/2020)

Political Representation (Due Friday, 04/10/2020)

Political Economy and State-Society Relations (Due Friday, 04/24/2020)

Exams:

Midterm 1 (Due Friday, 02/28/2020)

Midterm 2 (Due Wednesday, 04/01/2020)

Final (Due Friday, 05/08/2020)

## Class Structure

This class is an upper-level undergraduate course and will therefore rely heavily on student participation. While the instructor will lecture where appropriate, the class will primarily be focused on student participation. Therefore, it is important that you come prepared to class and have read and understood the material to the best of your abilities.

## Course Materials

The syllabus indicates where the readings will be available. Only readings that are inaccessible or difficult to obtain through the library – such as book chapters or readings from journals to which the library does not subscribe – will be uploaded on Learn. For the other readings, students are expected to go on the Library website at <http://library.unm.edu> and access the readings through there. No textbook or book purchases are necessary.

When powerpoint presentations are used, these will **not** be available on Learn, so make sure to take notes in class or ask your friends if you had to miss that day.

## Grades

Your grades are determined by three exams, multiple quizzes, attendance, and in-class participation. Quizzes will be given on Learn, and you will have a significant amount of time to complete them. The content of the quizzes will include content covered in both the class and in the readings. The midterms and final exams will similarly cover topics discussed in class and in the readings, but will be longer than the quizzes.

## Grading Policy

The quizzes will be given on [LEARN](#). Because students will have a significant amount of time to work on the quizzes, **no extensions will be granted**. While the quizzes are open book, students are expected to do them by themselves without the help of their classmates. The format of the quizzes is tentative and is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Similarly, all the exams will be take home exams and students will be given a sufficient amount of time to complete them. Because of this, **no extensions will be granted** unless there are extenuating circumstances that you communicate with the instructor. The instructor will then decide on a case-by-case basis whether make-up exams will be granted.

20% Attendance and Participation

2% Syllabus Quiz

18% Attendance and Participation

20% Midterm 1 Exam

20% Midterm 2 Exam

20% Final Exam

20% Quizzes on Learn

5% Historical Japan and Consequences for Contemporary Japanese Politics

5% Electoral Politics and Political Institutions

5% Political Representation

5% Political Economy and State-Society Relations

## Grading

Assignment points are distributed so that they are equivalent to the percentage they are worth for your final grade (i.e., the final exam is worth 20% of your entire grade, and will be graded with a maximum of 20 points). Where the final grade includes decimals, standard rounding rules will be applied, meaning that if your final total is 89.9, it will be rounded up to 90, and if it is 89.4, it will be rounded down to 89.

*Percentage and Point Breakdown*

97% - 100% = A+

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| 93% - 96%     | = A  |
| 90% - 92%     | = A- |
| 87% - 89%     | = B+ |
| 83% - 86%     | = B  |
| 80% - 82%     | = B- |
| 77% - 79%     | = C+ |
| 73% - 76%     | = C  |
| 70% - 72%     | = C- |
| 67% - 69%     | = D+ |
| 63% - 66%     | = D  |
| 60% - 62%     | = D- |
| Less than 60% | = F  |

## Course Policies

### In-Class Conduct

#### Laptop and Cellphone Use

Students will be allowed to use their laptops or phones in class for taking notes, following the readings, or other class related things. Please refrain from texting or being on social media, because it will not only be distracting to you but others around you. Failure to follow these rules may lead to a laptop/phone ban in class.

#### Class Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend class and arrive on time. Failure to attend class regularly will result in students being dropped from class, even if assignments are handed in or exams are taken. If you cannot make it to class, send me an email **before** class, stating an appropriate reason why you will not be able to make it. While life happens and delays are sometimes unavoidable, do not make it a habit to arrive late to class. Repeated delays will be counted as absences.

Students are also expected to participate to the best of their ability in class and engage with the readings and class content. I understand that some students may feel hesitant or shy, or that language ability may make it more difficult to speak up. If you need accommodations, please come talk to me within the first two weeks of class.

Because this is a learning environment, I expect you to be respectful of your colleagues and the opinions they voice in class. Please do not interrupt students when they are talking and wait your turn until your name has been called to voice your opinion. Continued disruptive behavior can lead to being dropped from the course.

#### Email Policy

Emails should be used for procedural reasons (e.g. setting up a meeting, asking about an exam date) and *not* for substantive reasons (e.g. help with a course concept). I will try to respond to email as quickly as I can, but response time will vary. Please plan your emails accordingly

and don't wait until the last minute if you need help with something. Please use a formal, professional style when writing an email as opposed to an informal, text-like style.

### **Accommodation of Disabilities**

In accordance with University Policy 2310 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor's attention, as instructors are not legally permitted to inquire. Students who may require assistance in emergency evacuations should consult the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow. Contact Accessibility Resource Center at 277-3506 for additional information.

### **Title IX**

In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered "responsible employees" by the Department of Education (see [p.15](#)). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity ([oeo.unm.edu](http://oeo.unm.edu)). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see [here](#).

### **Academic Integrity**

Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.

## Schedule

This schedule is tentative and subject to change. Students will be informed in class if there will be changes.

### 1 Historical Japan and Consequences for Contemporary Japanese Politics

#### Week 01, 01/20 - 01/24: Introduction

*Why study Japan in comparative politics? What is Japan a good case of comparatively speaking?*

- **Monday 01/20:** No Class: Holiday (MLK Day)
- **Wednesday 01/22:** Introduction
- **Friday 01/24:** Studying Japan in Comparative Politics

#### **Required:**

- (Library) Richardson, Bradley, and Dennis Patterson. 2001. "Political Traditions and Political Change: The Significance of Postwar Japanese Politics for Political Science." *Annual Review of Political Science* 4: 93-115

#### **Optional:**

- (Learn) Benson, John, and Takao Matsumura. 2001. *Japan, 1868-1945 From Isolation to Occupation*. London, UK: Pearson Education Limited pp. 1-51

#### Week 02, 01/27 - 01/31: Bilateral Relations: Historical Legacy and Contemporary Politics

*What happened during World War II until 1952? What are the implications for contemporary politics of Japan's conduct during World War II? What defined the US occupation?*

- **Monday 01/27:** South Korea and Japan
  - (Learn) Morris-Suzuki, Tessa. 2007. "Japan's 'Comfort Women': It's Time for the Truth (In the Ordinary, Everyday Sense of the Word)." *The Asia-Pacific Journal* 5 (March): 1-10
- **Wednesday 01/29:** US and Japan I: Allied Occupation
  - (Learn) Asia For Educators. 2009. "The American Occupation of Japan, 1945-1952." *Columbia University*
  - (Learn) Smethurst, Richard J. N.d. "The Allied Occupation of Japan: 1945-52." *University of Pittsburgh: Japan - Places, Images, Times, and Transformations*. Forthcoming
- **Friday 01/31:** US and Japan II: Military Bases today and Conflicts in Okinawa
  - (Learn) Moriteru, Arasaki. 2001. "The Struggle Against Military Bases in Okinawa - Its History and Current Situation." *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 2 (1): 101-108

**Week 03, 02/03 - 02/07: Political Eras**

What are the defining characteristics of the 1955 system? Why did it emerge? Why did it break down? What were its strengths and weaknesses? What other eras did we experience in Japanese politics? What were their defining characteristics?

- **Monday 02/03:** The 1955 System
  - (eBook Library) Kabashima, Ikuo, and Gill Steel. 2010. *Changing Politics in Japan*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press pp.1-27
- **Wednesday 02/05:** The End of the 1955 System
  - (Learn) Curtis, Gerald L. 1999. *The Logic of Japanese Politics: Leaders, Institutions, and the Limits of Change*. New York: Columbia University Press pp.65-98
- **Friday 02/07:** The Rise and Fall of the DPJ (2009-2013)
  - **Syllabus Quiz Due**
  - (Learn) Kushida, Kenji E., 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*, ed. Kenji E. Kushida and Phillip Y. Lipscy. Stanford, CA: The Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center pp.3-34

**2 Electoral Politics and Political Institutions****Week 04, 02/10 - 02/14: Electoral Rules and Its Consequences**

What were Japan's post-war electoral systems? What were major changes and why were they implemented? What differences do electoral systems make, and why do we study them? What lessons do we learn from the Japanese case?

- **Monday 02/10:** Electoral Reform
  - (eBook Library) Reed, Steven R., and Michael F. Thies. 2001. "The Consequences of Electoral Reform in Japan." In *Mixed-Member Electoral Systems: The Best of Both Worlds?*, ed. Matthew S. Shugart and Martin P. Wattenberg. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press
- **Wednesday 02/12:** Consequences of electoral systems Part 1: Candidate Positioning
  - (Library) Catalinac, Amy. 2018. "Positioning under Alternative Electoral Systems: Evidence from Japanese Candidate Election Manifestos." *American Political Science Review* 112 (1): 31-48
- **Friday 02/14:** Consequences of electoral system Part 2: Clientelism?
  - (Learn) Scheiner, Ethan. 2007. "Clientelism in Japan: the importance and limits of institutional explanations." In *Patrons, Clients, and Policies: Patterns of Democratic Accountability and Political Competition*, ed. Herbert Kitschelt and Steven I. Wilkinson. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

**Week 05, 02/17 - 02/21: The Family Registration system**

What is the family registration system and how does it signify the relationship between the individual, the family, and the state? What have been some implications of the system?

- **Monday 02/17:** The family registration system
  - (Learn) Chapman, David, and Karl Jakob Krogness. 2014. "The koseki." In *Japan's Household Registration System and Citizenship*, ed. David Chapman and Karl Jakob Krogness. New York: Routledge
- **Wednesday 02/19:** Impact of the family registration system 1
  - (Learn) Shin, Ki-Young. 2008. "'The Personal is the Political': Women's Surname Change in Japan." *Journal of Korean Law* 8 (December): 161-179 Fufubessei
- **Friday 02/21:** Impact of the family registration system 2
  - **Historical Japan and Consequences for Contemporary Japanese Politics Quiz Due**
  - (Learn) Mackie, Vera. 2014. "Birth Registration and the Right to Have Rights: The Changing Family and the Unchanging koseki." In *Japan's Household Registration System and Citizenship*, ed. David Chapman and Karl Jakob Krogness. New York: Routledge

**Week 06, 02/24 - 02/28: Constitution**

What are defining characteristics of the Japanese Constitution? What distinguishes it from other constitutions in democracies? Why does it matter?

- **Monday 02/24:** An Introduction to Japan's Constitution
  - (Library) McElwain, Kenneth Mori, and Christian G. Winkler. 2015. "What's Unique about the Japanese Constitution?: A Comparative and Historical Analysis." *The Journal of Japanese Studies* 41 (Summer): 249-280
- **Wednesday 02/26:** Article 1: The Emperor and Symbolic Representation and Article 9: The "Peace Clause"
  - (Learn) Shillony, Ben-Ami. 2005. *Enigma of the Emperors: Sacred Subservience in Japanese History*. Kent, UK: Global Oriental pp. 217-230
  - (Library) Hughes, Christopher W. 2006. "Why Japan Could Revise Its Constitution and What It Would Mean for Japanese Security Policy." *Orbis* 50 (Autumn): 725-744
- **Friday 02/28:** **Midterm 1**

No assigned readings.

**Week 07, 03/02 - 03/06: Citizenship**

What are key concepts of citizenships and what citizenship rules does Japan follow? What does citizenship signify and why does it matter?

- **Monday 03/02:** No Class



*No assigned readings.*

- **Wednesday 03/04:** Explaining *Jus Sanguinis* in Japan
  - (Learn) Kashiwazaki, Chikako. 1998. “Jus Sanguinis in Japan: The Origin of Citizenship in a Comparative Perspective.” *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 39 (3): 278-300
- **Friday 03/06:** Constructing Citizenship in Japan
  - (eBook Library) Chung, Erin Aeran. 2010. *Immigration and Citizenship in Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press pp.60-81

### 3 Representation

#### Week 08, 03/09 - 03/13: Political Dynasties

*What are some defining characteristics of political representation in Japan? What are the implications for democracy?*

- **Monday 03/09:** Political Dynasties Part 1
  - (Learn) Smith, Daniel M. 2018. *Dynasties and Democracy: The Inherited Incumbency Advantage in Japan*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press pp.1-33
- **Wednesday 03/11:** Political Dynasties Part 2
  - (Learn) Smith, Daniel M. 2018. *Dynasties and Democracy: The Inherited Incumbency Advantage in Japan*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press pp.1-33
  - (Learn) Smith, Daniel M. 2018. *Dynasties and Democracy: The Inherited Incumbency Advantage in Japan*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press pp. 239-257
- **Friday 03/13:** Consequences of Political Dynasties
  - (Learn) Smith, Daniel M. 2018. *Dynasties and Democracy: The Inherited Incumbency Advantage in Japan*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press pp. 239-257

#### Week 09, 03/16 - 03/20: Spring Break

#### Week 10, 03/23 - 03/27: Women’s Political Representation

*What are some defining characteristics of political representation in Japan? What are the implications for democracy? What is the significance of the gender gap in political representation and what are its repercussions?*

- **Monday 03/23:** The Gender Gap in Representation
  - (Learn) Miura, Mari. 2018. “Persistence of Women’s Under-Representation.” In *Japan Decides 2017: The Japanese General Election*, ed. Robert J. Pekkanen, Steven R. Reed, Ethan Scheiner, and Daniel M. Smith. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave MacMillan
- **Wednesday 03/25:** What explains the small number of female representatives?

- (Learn) Kage, Rieko, Frances McCall Rosenbluth, and Seiki Tanaka. 2019. “What Explains Low Female Political Representation? Evidence from Survey Experiments in Japan.” *Politics and Gender* 15 (June): 285-309
- **Friday 03/27:** Does descriptive representation lead to substantive representation?
  - **Electoral Politics and Political Institutions Quiz Due**
  - (Library) Gaunder, Alisa. 2012. “The DPJ and Women: The Limited Impact of the 2009 Alternation of Power on Policy and Governance.” *Journal of East Asian Studies* 12: 441-466

## 4 Political Economy

### Week 11, 03/30 - 04/03: Developmental State: The Bubble Economy and Its Burst

What explains Japan’s rapid growth after the end of World War II? What was the situation like during the Bubble Economy and why did it burst?

- **Monday 03/30:** The Developmental State Part 1
  - (eBook Library) Johnson, Chalmers. 1982. *MITI and the Japanese Miracle: The Growth of Industrial Policy, 1925-1975*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press pp.3-34
- **Wednesday 04/01:** No Class - **Midterm Exam**
  - No assigned readings.
- **Friday 04/03:** The Developmental State Part 2
  - (Library) Pekkanen, Robert. 2004. “After the Developmental State: Civil Society in Japan.” *Journal of East Asian Studies* 4: 363-388

### Week 12, 04/06 - 04/10: Demographic Change and State Responses

What demographic changes is Japan undergoing and how is the government responding to those changes?

- **Monday 04/06:** *Womenomics*: Increasing Women’s Workforce Participation?
  - (Library) Dalton, Emma. 2017. “Womenomics, ‘Equality’ and Abe’s Neo-liberal Strategy to Make Japanese Women Shine.” *Social Science Japan Journal* 20 (1): 95-105
  - (Learn) Hasunuma, Linda. 2015. “Gender *Gaiatsu*: An institutional perspective on wome-nomics.” *US-Japan Women’s Journal* 48 (1): 79-114
- **Wednesday 04/08:** *Ikumen*: Changing Men’s Roles?
  - (Learn) Ishii-Kuntz, Masako. 2019. “Japanese Child Caring Men (Ikumen) and Achieving Work-Life Balance.” In *Family Life in Japan and Germany*, ed. Schad-Seifert A. Meier-Gräwe U., Motozawa M. Wiesbaden: Springer VS
- **Friday 04/10:** Increasing Immigrants?
  - **Political Representation Quiz Due**
  - (Learn) Strausz, Michael. 2019. *Help (Not) Wanted: Immigration Politics in Japan*. New York: SUNY Press pp.5-28

## 5 State-Society Relations

### Week 13, 04/13 - 04/17: The Welfare State

Why study the Japanese welfare state? What makes it different and why is it a good case of comparison?

- **Monday 04/13:** The Japanese-style Welfare State
  - (eBook Library) Estevez-Abe, Margarita. 2008. *Welfare and Capitalism in Postwar Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press pp.19-50
- **Wednesday 04/15:** Social Policy
  - (Library) Peng, Ito. 2014. "The Social Protection Floor and the 'New' social investment policies in Japan and South Korea." *Global Social Policy* 14 (3): 389-405
- **Friday 04/17:** No Class - Midwest Political Science Association Conference
 

*No assigned readings*

### Week 14, 04/20 - 04/24: Welfare State and Minority Politics

Who are Japan's minorities? What explains the prevalence of the "homogeneous Japan" narrative?

- **Monday 04/20:** Work-Family Policy
  - (Learn) Boling, Patricia. 2015. *The Politics of Work-Family Policies: Comparing Japan, France, Germany, and the United States*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press pp. 106-146
- **Wednesday 04/22:** Japan's Minorities
  - (Learn) Peng-er, Lam. 2005. "At the Margins of a Liberal-Democratic State: Ethnic Minorities in Japan." In *Multiculturalism in Asia*, ed. Will Kymlicka and Bapgang He. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press
- **Friday 04/24:** Burakumin
  - **Political Economy and State-Society Relations Quiz Due**
  - (Learn) Neary, Ian. 1997. "Burakumin in Contemporary Japan." In *Japan's Minorities: The Illusion of Homogeneity*, ed. Michael Weiner. London, UK: Routledge

### Week 15, 04/27 - 05/01: Minority Politics

What do efforts of minority integration look like? Are minorities protected in Japan?

- **Monday 04/27:** Ainu
  - (Library) Siddle, Richard. 2003. "The Limits of Citizenship in Japan: Multiculturalism, Indigenous Rights and the Ainu." *Citizenship Studies* 7 (4): 447-462
- **Wednesday 04/29:** LGBTQ Rights

- (Library) Takao, Yasuo. 2017. “The Politics of LGBT Policy Adoption: Shibuya Ward’s Same-Sex Partnership Certificates in the Japanese Context.” *Pacific Affairs* 90 (March): 7-27

- **Friday 05/01: Immigrants**

- (Library) Strausz, Michael. 2010. “Japanese Conservatism and the Integration of Foreign Residents.” *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 11 (2): 245-264
- (Learn) Strausz, Michael. 2019. *Help (Not) Wanted: Immigration Politics in Japan*. New York: SUNY Press pp.1-4

**Week 16, 05/04 - 05/08: Natural Disasters**

- **Monday 05/04: Disasters and State-Society Relations**

- (Library) Aldrich, Daniel P. 2013. “Rethinking Civil Society-State Relations in Japan after the Fukushima Accident.” *Polity* 45 (2): 249-264

- **Wednesday 05/06: Review Session and Conclusion**

*No assigned readings.*

- **Friday 05/08: No Class - Final Exam**

*No assigned readings.*

## References

- Aldrich, Daniel P. 2013. "Rethinking Civil Society-State Relations in Japan after the Fukushima Accident." *Polity* 45 (2): 249-264.
- Asia For Educators. 2009. "The American Occupation of Japan, 1945-1952." *Columbia University*.
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