COURSE GOALS

This seminar focuses on issues in Japanese domestic politics and political economy in historical and comparative perspective. We critically review major debates in the field, examining new scholarship as well as classic works.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

5-page book review and presentation  15%
Final paper and presentation  60%
bSpace postings and class participation  25%

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Books recommended for purchase:

* Sheldon Garon, Molding Japanese Minds (1997)
Chalmers Johnson, MITI and the Japanese Miracle (1982)
Krauss and Pekkanen, The Rise and Fall of Japan’s LDP (2011)
Kushida and Lipsy, eds., Japan Under the DPJ (2013)
Steven Vogel, Japan Remodeled (2006)

All of these books are available on reserve, and the Garon and Samuels books are also available on bCourses. You may substitute some Japanese-language materials for assigned readings, in consultation with the instructor. In addition to the assigned readings for each week, you should keep up with current events in Japan by reading at least one quality newspaper and one weekly news magazine on a regular basis. You may also fulfill this assignment by checking Internet news sources regularly.
1. Course Introduction (1/21)

2. The Historical Legacy (1/28)
   Samuels, Machiavelli's Children (2003), 1-18, 41-68, 344-61.

   Recommended
   Skim one of the following as needed for an overview: Peter Duus, Modern Japan (1998), especially Chapters 1-2, 4-7, 9-10, 15, 18, 20; or Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan (2009), especially Chapters 1-2, 4-8, 10-11, 13, 15, 17.

3. The 1955 System (2/4)
   Krauss and Pekkanen, 1-64, 154-87, and 260-87.
   Ethan Scheiner, Democracy Without Competition in Japan (2006), 64-89.

4. The Developmental State Thesis, Critics, and Alternatives (2/11)
   Chalmers Johnson, MITI and the Japanese Miracle (1982), 3-82, 305-324.
   Brian Woodall, Japan Under Construction (1996), 1-23.
5. Models of the Policy Process (2/18)

7. Rethinking State-Society Relations (3/4)

8. Protest and Conflict (3/11)

9. Local Politics/ the Media (3/18)
10. Post-Bubble Political Economy (4/1)

11. Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy (4/8)
Gerald Curtis, “Japan’s Cautious Hawks: Why Tokyo is Unlikely to Pursue an Aggressive Foreign Policy,” *Foreign Affairs* (March/ April 2013), 77-86.

13. Post-’93 Politics II: Party Competition (4/22)


“The DPJ Manifesto” (2009), 1-5.

Steven Vogel, “Japan’s Long Road to Competitive Politics,” *Current History* (September 2010).

“LDP Didn’t Win; DPJ Lost,” *The Oriental Economist* (January 2013), 1-3.


14. Presentations (4/29)
PAPER AND PRESENTATION ASSIGNMENTS

BOOK REVIEW AND PRESENTATION (Weeks 2-12)

Write a 1500 word (about 5 pages) review of one of the books from the list on the following pages. You may also select a Japanese-language book or another book not on the list in consultation with the instructor. You will be asked to give a 5-10 minute presentation during the appropriate class session (depending on the book), and then to submit the written review at the following class session. Analyze and critique the book’s argument rather than summarizing its content. Compare and contrast the book’s argument to course readings, especially those assigned for that week. For this presentation, as for the research paper presentation, please provide a short (two page maximum) outline for your classmates, including a brief summary of the book's main argument and your comments/criticisms, and post the outline on bCourses by 5 p.m. the day before class. We will determine the book review assignments during the second class session (1/28). Make sure to get hold of your book (from the library or the professor) as soon as possible.

RESEARCH PAPER AND PRESENTATION

Write a 6000 word (about 20 pages) research paper, and give a 5-10 minute presentation of your findings to the class (4/22 or 4/29). Consult me about your topic early in the semester. The due dates are as follows: one-paragraph proposal 3/14 (required), full draft 5/2 (strongly encouraged but not required), final draft by 11 AM on 5/14.

You may also write a literature review essay for your final paper. If you choose this option, consult me early on regarding topics and readings, and make sure to get hold of the readings as soon as possible.

bCOURSES READING MEMOS

Write a short (250 words maximum) memo on the week’s readings and post it on the bCourses site by 5 p.m. the day before class any 8 weeks during the semester. Make sure to read your classmates’ memos before class. The memos may take a variety of forms: 1) a critique of one or more of the readings, 2) a comparison/contrast of two or more authors, 3) questions about the readings, 4) a proposal of a topic for class discussion. Given the short length, you may write the memo in outline or list form. Feel free to experiment. We will discuss some of the memos in class.
BOOKS FOR REVIEW

2. The Historical Legacy (1/28)
Peter Duus, Party Rivalry and Political Change in Taisho Japan (1968).

3. The 1955 System (2/4)
Richard Samuels, Machiavelli’s Children: Leaders and Their Legacies in Italy and Japan (2003).

4. The Developmental State Thesis, Critics, and Alternatives (2/11)

5. Models of the Policy Process (2/18)

7. Rethinking State-Society Relations (3/4)
* Mary Alice Haddad, Building Democracy in Japan (2012).

8. Protest and Conflict (3/11)
Timothy George, Minamata: Pollution and the Struggle for Democracy in Postwar Japan (2002).

9. Local Politics/ the Media (3/18)
Laurie Freeman, Closing the Shop: Information Cartels and Japan’s Mass Media (2000).
10. Post-Bubble Political Economy (4/1)

11. Domestics Politics and Foreign Policy (4/8)

12. Post-’93 Politics (4/15)