

## POLITICAL SCIENCE 453/553 - JAPANESE POLITICS

Summer I

M & W, 5:30-8:00 P.M., Briggs 210

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Overview: Late to emerge from its feudal cocoon, Japan was the first non-Western country to industrialize and to establish the formal institutions of political democracy. By the 1930s it had developed into a predominant power in the Pacific. Following its defeat in World War II, Japan established and maintained a synthesis of democratic political procedures, long term one-party rule, and an effective balance between high economic growth and relative social equality, as well as low expenditures for military defense and a strong sense of national security. In the early 1990s, the country has experienced several major economic, political and social reorientations that challenge many of its earlier principles. We will explore this combination of political experiences as well as the social costs and benefits attendant upon its successes. The course assumes no prior knowledge of Japan.

Purpose of the Course: The purpose of Political Science 453/553 is to introduce students to some of the intricacies of contemporary Japanese politics. We shall do this by examining the following aspects of Japanese politics: attempts to define Japan and “Japaneseness;” the foundations of Japanese politics - its history, ecology, social structure, and political culture; the political dynamics of Japan - interest groups, parties, elections, leadership, the bureaucracy, and decision-making; Japan’s governmental performance - in both domestic affairs and foreign relations; and the prospects for liberal democracy, particularly in light of the major upheavals in Japanese politics over the last several years. The course also serves the purpose of providing graduate students with the opportunity to engage in research on Japanese politics.

Course Format: The relatively small size of this class, and the fact that we meet less often but for longer periods of time per meeting than a regular semester course, affords us the unique opportunity to explore Japanese politics in a closer and more intimate setting than is usually the case. I have, thus, organized and intend to direct this course as a seminar. The majority of our class time will be spent discussing, debating, scrutinizing, and critically examining the texts. This is an overwhelmingly oral course: I, and on most occasions you, will lead discussions. The topic of these discussions will be the texts. I cannot overemphasize: this is a **text-driven discussion-oriented seminar** course. Careful reading of the texts is, therefore, crucial to both the success of the class and your grade in it. Your participation/contribution grade reflects this emphasis. I will address the implications of this format at our first meeting.

Please note that this class, being only seven weeks in duration, is by definition more intense than the same course offered in a fourteen week term. It is telescoped: the same material is covered, but in half the time. It is therefore essential that **all** students attend **all** class sessions, and in their

entirety. Missing one of our sessions is equivalent to missing a whole week of classes during a regular term. If you, for whatever reason or reasons, cannot take the class intensely and seriously, I urge you to reconsider your options. If you are looking to pick up a few easy credits over the summer, this is not the class for you! Finally, please read the policies on late work, incompletes, and writing assignments, and make special note of the requirements and key dates.

Course Requirements/Undergraduates: There are four. The *first* is the afore-mentioned class participation/contribution in general, that is, on the evenings you are not leading the class discussion on a particular chapter. You **must attend each and every** class meeting, and make a contribution to the class's understanding of the material. To do this you must have completed the reading for that meeting, and completed it in a way that prepares you for class discussion. You will also lead and/or help lead a class discussion on a set of readings, and will be graded on your coverage of the literature, the relevance of the questions you raise, and your ability to generate class discussion. Your class participation/contribution grade counts for 20% of your final grade. You will also lead two class discussions on a specific reading. The *second* and *third* requirements refer to these two class presentations. You will lead the class discussion on those two evenings, and will be graded on your coverage of the literature, the quality of the handouts you provide, the relevance of the questions you raise, and your ability to generate class discussion. Each is worth 20% of your final grade. The *fourth* and final requirement, counting 40% of your final grade, is a cumulative final exam, to be administered at our last meeting, **Wednesday, 17 June.**

Course Requirements/Graduate Students: Political Science 553 is offered for credit to graduate students. In general, graduate students, in addition to completing the afore-mentioned requirements, are expected to perform according to graduate-level standards. All work is evaluated at the appropriate graduate level in terms of quality, sophistication, and thoroughness. In particular, graduate students are expected and required to write an 8-10 page review of a scholarly article germane to contemporary Japanese politics. A one-page research proposal, stating the question, issue, or hypothesis to be explored and a bibliography with your source, is due not later than **Wednesday, 20 May**. I will read drafts, provided you submit them no later than **Monday, 8 June**. The final copy of the paper is due no later than **Wednesday, 17 June**.

The final grade calculation for graduate students is as follows: each of the five requirements (the four required of undergraduates and the review article) will count 20%.

Readings: The reading load for this course is designed to encourage not only completion of all reading assignments prior to their due date, but also to allow a certain amount of time beyond mere reading to comprehend the readings in a way that will prepare you to contribute to class discussion. Thus, you must read the required pages, and with enough concentration and rigor to be able to contribute to our understanding through class discussion. The following book has been ordered at the bookstore. It is required. You should purchase it and bring it with you to class:

Ishida, Takeshi & Ellis S. Krauss, eds. Democracy in Japan. University of Pittsburgh Press (Pitt Series in Policy and Institutional Studies), 1989. (I & K)

There are a number of additional required readings that I will make available to you throughout the term.

Finally, a liberally-educated person is committed to keeping informed about the world in which we live. This is particularly important given our subject: Japanese politics is changing on an almost daily basis. One of the best ways to keep abreast of Japanese politics, and the world at large, is to read a reputable national/international newspaper. I recommend The New York Times. It is available at local booksellers and other outlets.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus, as he determines circumstances warrant.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

M 4 May: **Introduction**

- to the course: how to take & survive POL 453/553

- to Japan: Scratches On Our Mind

watch: 'Portrait of Japan' video, excerpts

### **I. Framework: Japanese Democracy & Politics**

W 6 May: Democracy & Its Prerequisites, in General & in Japan

read: Takeshi Ishida & Ellis S. Krauss, "Democracy in Japan: Issues and Questions," ch. 1 in I & K, pp. 3-16.

T.J. Pempel, "Prerequisites for Democracy: Political and Social Institutions, ch. 2 in I & K, pp. 17-37.

M 11 May: Japanese Politics in Comparative Perspective

W 13 May: Japanese Policymaking

read: Ellis S. Krauss, "Politics and the Policymaking Process," ch. 3 in I & K, pp. 39-64.

### **II. Political Democracy**

M 18 May: Japanese Constitutionalism

read: Lawrence W. Beer, "Law and Liberty," ch. 4 in I & K, pp. 67-87.

W 20 May: Forms of Political Participation

read: J.A.A. Stockwin, "Political Parties and Political Opposition," ch. 5 in I & K, pp. 89-111.

Japanese Bureaucracy

I read: John Creighton Campbell, "Democracy and Bureaucracy in Japan," ch. 6 in & K, pp. 113-137.

### **Monday, 25 May: Memorial Day Holiday - No Class**

W 27 May: Democracy at the Local Level

read: Terry E. MacDougall, "Democracy and Local Government in Postwar Japan," ch. 7 in I & K, pp. 139-169.

Extrainstitutional Participation

198. read: Patricia G. Steinhoff, "Protest and Democracy," ch. 8 in I & K, pp. 171-

### **III. Social Democracy**

M 1 Jun: Economic Distribution

read: Margaret A. McKean, "Equality," ch. 9 in I & K, pp. 201-224.

Education & Democracy

read: Edward Beauchamp, "Education," ch. 10 in I & K, pp. 225-251.

### **Wednesday, 3 June: No Class**

### **IV. Economic Democracy**

M 8 Jun: Big Business & Democracy

read: Glen S. Fukushima, "Corporate Power," ch. 11 in I & K, pp. 255-279.

W 10 Jun: Worker Participation

read: Tadashi Hanami, "Industrial Democracy," ch. 12 in I & K, pp. 281-97.

M 15 Jun: Big Labor & Democracy

read: Christena Turner, "Democratic Consciousness in Japanese Unions," ch. 13

in I & K, pp. 299-323.

### **Conclusion**

W 17 Jun: Japanese Democracy in Comparative Perspective

read: Ellis S. Krauss & Takeshi Ishida, "Japanese Democracy in Perspective," ch. 14 in I & K, pp. 327-339.

**Wednesday, 17 June: Final Exam**