

Japanese Politics – 2017/2018

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Eight Classes in Michaelmas Term

Week One: Monday 11.00 am - 12.00 pm

Weeks 2-8: Monday 11.00 am - 1.00 pm

Lectures: Friday 12.00pm - 1.00 pm

Aims of the course:

- To study Japan, an advanced, industrial urban society using the methods of political science;
- To consider the implications of studying a polity like Japan for comparative government.

This course aims to provide an outline of Japanese politics and to show how the study of Japan can contribute to an understanding of broader issues in comparative government. Major themes to be covered include modern political history, the structures, and institutions of contemporary politics, parties, elections, bureaucracy, and policymaking. It will be possible to study a number of contemporary policy areas in depth, including environment policy, human rights policy, foreign and defence policy, industrial policy among others. We will look at the micro level of policy making while also relating this to the wider political and economic arena both inside and outside Japan. Each topic is headed by a key reading that all those who attend the class should read. The purpose of each class is to relate the specific readings on Japan to the themes covered in this key text. Each week, one or two students will be assigned to lead the class discussion.

You will be asked to write a minimum of three essays for this course, the first to be submitted no later than Friday of the fourth week of term in which the classes are taught.

Lectures:

There will be a parallel series of lectures held on Fridays at 12 across the academic year that will introduce students to the political history and institutions of Japan and a wide range of policy areas. Please note that the lectures are a central part of the course and all students are very strongly recommended to attend. A list of the topics to be covered in the lectures will be produced at the start of Michaelmas term.

Classes:

1. Continuity and Change in Twentieth Century Japanese politics
2. Structural Reforms since the 1990s
3. Party Politics: Towards a Two Party System?
4. Policy Change in (mainly) Domestic Policy Arenas: Industrial and Agricultural Policy
5. Foreign and Defence Policy: making Japan a 'normal' country
6. Policy Change at the International Interface : Human Rights, ODA and FDI
7. Environment Policies and Citizens Movements
8. Who Governs?

Recommended Introductory Reading:

HOOK, Glenn D., *Japan's International Relations: Politics, Economics and Security*, (Routledge, 2012).

NEARY, Ian J., *The State and Politics in Japan*, Blackwell, 2002.

McCARGO, Duncan, *Contemporary Japan*, (Palgrave 2004)

STOCKWIN, J. A. A., *Governing Japan: Divided Politics in a Resurgent Economy* (Blackwell, 2008).

ROSENBLUTH F M & THIES MT *Japan Transformed*, Princeton UP 2010