

The Japanese Politics and Diplomacy
Fall 2023
GSIS International Area Studies (Japan)

Instructor: Sukeui SOHN

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Time & Venue: Wednesday, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm, Bldg.140 Room 105

Office Hour: By appointment

Course Description & Objectives

The purpose of this course is to explore Japanese politics and diplomacy. The class is designed to develop critical assessments on the issues related to contemporary Japanese politics and diplomacy by comparing various perspectives on a specific topic each week. We will be reading wide range of literatures, including both classic and recent publications. Throughout the semester, the class will discuss Japan's party politics, domestic politics of foreign relations, and international relations particularly focusing on Japan's postwar relationship with the U.S. and surrounding East Asian states.

Requirements & Evaluation

Attendance & participation	10%
Presentation & discussion	30%
Midterm essay	30%
Final research paper	30%

Attendance & Participation

All students are required to attend class and participate in lively discussions. Missing more than one-third of the classes will result in immediate "F" for this course.

Presentation & Discussion

For every session, students are requested to make individual, resume-based presentations concerning the contexts of the reading materials, based on which the class will carry out discussions.

Midterm Essay

Midterm essay (or book review assignment) will be scheduled mid-semester. The instructor will provide with more details during class.

Final Research Paper

All students are required to turn in a final research paper at the end of the semester (10 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font). You may choose any topic discussed during the semester. This paper should be "critical" and "analytical" research paper with strong supporting evidence and **proper academic citations**. Plagiarism will result in immediate zero point for this assignment.

Overall Course Schedule

	Topic	Note
Week 1	Course Introduction	
Week 2	The Working of the 1955 System	
Week 3	The Pillars of the LDP	
Week 4	Article 9 and Japan's Postwar Antimilitarism	
Week 5	Electoral Reform and Political Restructuring in the 1990s	
Week 6	The Structural Changes in Party Competition and Management	
Week 7	Japan's Strategic Debates in the Post-Cold War Setting	
Week 8	Midterm Essay Due (12 pm)	Online submission
Week 9	The Internal Changes within the LDP in the Post-1955 System	
Week 10	Japan's Historical Controversies: Domestic and Foreign	
Week 11	The Oppositions: Old and New	
Week 12	The Nationalisms in Japan	
Week 13	Japan under PM Abe	
Week 14	Student Presentation on Individual Research Paper	
Week 15	Final Research Paper Due (12 pm)	Online submission

Course Schedule and Weekly Reading Assignments

Week 1 Course Introduction

Week 2 The Working of the 1955 System

Curtis, G.L., 1988. *The Japanese way of politics*. New York: Columbia University Press. Ch. 3

Ramseyer, J.M. & Rosenbluth, F.M.C., 1993. *Japan's political marketplace*. Cambridge, Mass.; London: Harvard University Press. Ch.2

Calder, K.E., 1988. *Crisis and Compensation: Public Policy and Political Stability in Japan, 1949-1986*. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press. Ch. 4

Scheiner, Ethan. 2006. *Democracy without Competition in Japan: Opposition Failure in a One-party Dominant State*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Introduction & CH 2.

Week 3 The Pillars of the LDP

Curtis, G. (1971). Election Campaigning, Japanese Style. New York: Columbia University Press. Ch. 2&5

Krauss, E. S. and Pekkanen, R. (2011). "The Kōenkai: Origins and Development of a Vote-Mobilization Machine." In *The Rise and Fall of Japan's LDP: Political Party Organizations as Historical Institutions*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Cox, G., & Rosenbluth, F. (1996). Factional Competition for the Party Endorsement: The Case of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party. *British Journal of Political Science*, 26(2), 259-269.

Johnson, C.A. (1982) *MITI and the Japanese Miracle: The growth of industrial policy, 1925-1975*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. Ch. 1&6

Week 4 Article 9 and Japan's Postwar Antimilitarism

Pyle, Kenneth B. 2007. *Japan Rising: The Resurgence of Japanese Power and Purpose*. Ch. 7 "The Cold War Opportunity"
Ch. 8 "Yoshida Doctrine as Grand Strategy"

Berger, Thomas. "From Sword to Chrysanthemum: Japan's Culture of Anti-Militarism." *International Security* 17:4.

Lind, Jennifer. "Pacifism or Passing the Buck? Testing Theories of Japanese Security Policy." *International Security* 29:1.

Izumikawa, Yasuhiro. 2010. "Explaining Japanese Antimilitarism: Normative and Realist

Constraints on Japan's Security Policy." *International Security* 35 (2): 123-160.

Week 5 Electoral Reform and Political Restructuring in the 1990s

Curtis, Gerald L. 1999. *The Logic of Japanese Politics: Leaders, Institutions, and the Limits of Change*. New York: Columbia University Press. Ch. 4

Christensen, R. 2000. *Ending the LDP Hegemony: Party Cooperation in Japan*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. Ch.2

Mair, Peter, and Tomokazu Sakano. "Japanese Political Realignment in Perspective." *Party Politics* 4, no. 2 (1998): 177-201.

Kabashima, I., & Steel, G. (2010). "Party and Voter Dealignment: The LDP System Disintegrates." In *Changing Politics In Japan* . Ithaca; London: Cornell University Press: 28-60.

Week 6 The Structural Changes in Party Competition and Management

Shimizu, Kay, and Kozo Miyagawa. "Political Consequences of Structural Change: Explaining the LDP's Decline." *THE JOURNAL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE* 62, no. 1 (2011): 101-12.

Reed, S., Scheiner, E., & Thies, M. (2012). The End of LDP Dominance and the Rise of Party-Oriented Politics in Japan. *The Journal of Japanese Studies*, 38(2), 353-376.

Krauss, E., & Pekkanen, R. (2004). "Explaining Party Adaptation to Electoral Reform: The Discreet Charm of the LDP?" *Journal of Japanese Studies*, 30(1), 1-34.

Lipsy, P. Y. and Scheiner, E. (2012) "Japan Under the DPJ: The Paradox of Political Change Without Policy Change," *Journal of East Asian Studies*. Cambridge University Press, 12(3), pp. 311–322.

Tanaka, Aiji, and Sherry Martin. "THE NEW INDEPENDENT VOTER AND THE EVOLVING JAPANESE PARTY SYSTEM." *Asian Perspective* 27, no. 3 (2003): 21-51.

Week 7 Japan's Strategic Debates in the Post-Cold War Setting

Samuels, Richard J. 2007. "Securing Japan: The Current Discourse." *Journal of Japanese Studies* 33 (1): pp. 125–152.

Rozman, Gilbert. 2008. "Internationalism and Asianism in Japanese Strategic Thought from Meiji to Heisei." *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 9(2): 209-232.

Pyle, Kenneth B. 2007. *Japan Rising: The Resurgence of Japanese Power and Purpose*. New York: Public Affairs.
Ch. 9 The Post-Cold War Interval in East Asia

Soeya, Yoshihide. 2011. "A 'Normal' Middle Power: Interpreting Changes in Japanese

Security Policy in the 1990s and After.” In Soeya, Yoshihide, Masayuki Tadokoro, and David A. Welch ed. *Japan as a ‘Normal Country’?: A Nation in Search of Its Place in the World*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Ch. 3

Week 8 Midterm Essay Due

Week 9 The Internal Changes within the LDP in the Post-1955 System

Shinoda, Tomohito. 2013. *Contemporary Japanese Politics: Institutional Changes and Power Shifts*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Ch.3 Institutional Changes and Koizumi’s Leadership

Park, Cheol Hee. 2001. “Factional Dynamics in Japan’s LDP Since Political Reform: Continuity and Change.” *Asian Survey*, Vol. 41, No.3, pp. 428-461.

Liff, A., & Maeda, K. (2019). Electoral incentives, policy compromise, and coalition durability: Japan's LDP–Komeito Government in a mixed electoral system. *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, 20(1), 53-73.

Endo M., Pekkanen R., Reed S.R. (2013) “The LDP’s Path Back to Power.” In: Pekkanen R., Reed S.R., Scheiner E. (eds) *Japan Decides 2012*. Palgrave Macmillan, London

Week 10 Japan’s Historical Controversies: Domestic and Foreign

Bukh, Alexander. 2007. “Japan’s History Textbooks Debate: National Identity in Narratives of Victimhood and Victimization.” *Asian Survey*, Vol. 47 No. 5: 683-704.

Dower, John W. 2012. *Ways of Forgetting, Ways of Remembering: Japan in the Modern World*. New York: New Press.

Ch. 4 An Aptitude for Being Unloved

Linus Hagström & Ulv Hanssen. 2015. “The North Korean Abduction Issue: Emotions, Securitisation and the Reconstruction of Japanese Identity from ‘Aggressor’ to ‘Victim’ and from ‘Pacifist’ to ‘Normal’.” *The Pacific Review* 28 (1): 71-93.

Dudden, Alexis. 2008. *Troubled Apologies among Japan, Korea, and the United States*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Ch. 2 Apologies All Around

Week 11 The Oppositions: Old and New

Pekkanen, Robert J., and Pekkanen, Saadia, eds. 2021. *The Oxford Handbook of Japanese Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Incorporated

Ch. 12 The Political Opposition in Japan

Hyde, Sarah J. 2009. *The Transformation of the Japanese Left: From Old Socialists to New Democrats*. London: Routledge.

Ch. 4 Rengo and the Changes in the Japanese Left

Charles WEATHERS, Reformer or Destroyer? Hashimoto Tōru and Populist Neoliberal Politics in Japan, *Social Science Japan Journal*, Volume 17, Issue 1, Winter 2014, Pages 77–96.

Pekkanen, Robert J., and Steven R. Reed. “The Opposition: From Third Party Back to Third Force.” *Japan Decides 2017*, Springer International Publishing, Cham, 2018, pp. 77–92.

Week 12 The Nationalisms in Japan

Glosserman, Brad and Scott A. Snyder. 2015. *The Japan–South Korea Identity Clash: East Asian Security and the United States*. New York: Columbia University Press.
Ch. 2 Japan’s Identity Crisis

Winkler, Christian G. 2017. “Right On? The LDP’s Drift to the Right and the Persistence of Particularism,” *Social Science Japan Journal*, Volume 20, Issue 2, Pages 203–224.

Sasada, Hironori. 2006. “Youth and Nationalism in Japan.” *SAIS Review of International Affairs* 26 (2): 109-122.

Higuchi, Naoto. “The ‘Pro-establishment’ Radical Right: Japan’s Nativist Movement Reconsidered” in Chiavacci, David, Simona Grano, and Julia Obinger (eds), *Civil Society and the State in Democratic East Asia: Between Entanglement and Contention in Post High Growth*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press 2020

Week 13 Japan under PM Abe

Terada, Takashi. 2015. "The Abe Effect and Domestic Politics." *Asian Perspective*, 39 (3): 381-403.

Hughes, Christopher. 2017. “Japan’s Strategic Trajectory and Collective Self-Defense.” *Journal of Japanese Studies* 43: 93-126.

Oros, Andrew. 2017. *Japan’s Security Renaissance: New Policies and Politics for the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Columbia University Press.
Ch. 5 “The New Conservative Mainstream and New Security Policies Under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, 2012 to 2016”

Sakaki, A. and Nishino, J. (2018) “Japan's South Korea predicament,” *International Affairs* 94(4), pp. 735–754.

Week 14 Student Presentations on Individual Research Paper

Week 15 Final Paper Due