Instructor: Sukeui SOHN  
Email: alfasomega@snu.ac.kr  
Time & Venue: Thursday, 2:00 pm – 4:50 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation &amp; discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final research paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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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
At 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 (10-12 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Note</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mar. 7</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mar. 14</td>
<td>The Working of the 1955 System</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Mar. 21</td>
<td>No Class (Make-up class to be scheduled)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Mar. 28</td>
<td>Electoral Reform and Political Restructuring in the 1990s</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Apr. 4</td>
<td>Rise of DPJ and the Structural Changes in Party Competition and Management</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Apr. 11</td>
<td>Revival of the LDP: Strong Leadership and Post-2012 Politics</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Apr. 18</td>
<td>Japan’s National Identity and Nationalism</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Apr. 25</td>
<td>Midterm Essay Due (12 pm)</td>
<td>Online submission</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Debates on Japanese ‘Culture’ of Antimilitarism</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Article 9 and Japan’s Postwar Security Policy</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>Japan’s Strategic Debates after the 1990s</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>Japan’s Historical and Territorial Controversies with Surrounding States</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>Foreign and Security Policies under Abe</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>June 6</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>Student Presentation on Individual Research Paper</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>June 20</td>
<td>Final Research Paper Due (12 pm)</td>
<td>Online submission</td>
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Course Schedule and Weekly Reading Assignments

**Week 1**  
Course Introduction

**Week 2**  
**The Working of the 1955 System**  


**Week 3**  
No Class (Make-up to be scheduled)

**Week 4**  
**Electoral Reform and Political Restructuring in the 1990s**  


**Week 5**  
**Rise of DPJ and the Structural Changes in Party Competition and Management**


**Week 6 Revival of the LDP: Strong Leadership and Post-2012 Politics**


**Week 7 Japan’s National Identity and Nationalism**


**Week 8 Midterm Exam**

**Week 9 Debates on Japanese ‘Culture’ of Antimilitarism**


**Week 10**  
**Article 9 and Japan’s Postwar Security Policy**  


**Week 11**  
**Japan’s Strategic Debates after the 1990s**  


**Week 12**  
**Japan’s Historical and Territorial Controversies with Surrounding States**  


**Week 13**  
**Foreign and Security Policies under Abe**


Ch. 5  


**Week 14**  
**Memorial Day (No Class)**

**Week 15**  
**Student Presentations**

**Week 16**  
**Final Exam**