

Japanese Politics and Diplomacy
Spring 2019
GSIS International Area Studies (Japan)

Instructor: Sukeui SOHN

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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

Attendance & participation	10%
Presentation & discussion	20%
Midterm essay	30%
Final research paper	40%

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.

Overall Course Schedule

	Date	Topic	Note
Week 1	Mar. 7	Course Introduction	
Week 2	Mar. 14	The Working of the 1955 System	
Week 3	Mar. 21	No Class (Make-up class to be scheduled)	
Week 4	Mar. 28	Electoral Reform and Political Restructuring in the 1990s	
Week 5	Apr. 4	Rise of DPJ and the Structural Changes in Party Competition and Management	
Week 6	Apr. 11	Revival of the LDP: Strong Leadership and Post-2012 Politics	
Week 7	Apr. 18	Japan's National Identity and Nationalism	
Week 8	Apr. 25	Midterm Essay Due (12 pm)	Online submission
Week 9	May 2	Debates on Japanese 'Culture' of Antimilitarism	
Week 10	May 9	Article 9 and Japan's Postwar Security Policy	
Week 11	May 16	Japan's Strategic Debates after the 1990s	
Week 12	May 23	Japan's Historical and Territorial Controversies with Surrounding States	
Week 13	May 30	Foreign and Security Policies under Abe	
Week 14	June 6	Memorial Day	
Week 15	June 13	Student Presentation on Individual Research Paper	
Week 16	June 20	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 No Class (Make-up to be scheduled)

Week 4 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

Park, Cheol-Hee. 2001. "Factional Dynamics in Japan's LDP after Electoral Reform: Continuity and Change." *Asian Survey*, 41(3), 428-461

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.

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

Maeda, K. (2010) "Factors Behind Historic Defeat of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party in 2009." *Asian Survey*, Vol. 50 No.5: 888-907.

Scheiner, Ethan. The Electoral System and Japan's Partial Transformation: Party System Consolidation without Policy Realignment. *Japan Under the DPJ: The Politics of Transition and Governance*. Ch. 3

Pempel, T. J. "Between Pork and Productivity: The Collapse of the Liberal Democratic Party." *The Journal of Japanese Studies* 36, no. 2 (2010): 227-54.

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.

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

Mishima, K. 2007. "Grading Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi's Revolution: How Far Has the LDP's Policymaking Changed?" *Asian Survey*, Vol. 47 No. 5: 727-748.

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

Takashi Terada. 2015. "The Abe Effect and Domestic Politics." *Asian Perspective*, Vol. 39 No. 3: 381-403.

Pekkanen, R. and Pekkanen S. 2016. "Japan in 2015: More about Abe." *Asian Survey* 56 (1): 34-46.

Week 7 Japan's National Identity and Nationalism

Gluck, Carol. 1993. "The Past in the Present." In Gordon, A. ed. *Postwar Japan As History*. Berkeley: University of California Press,

McCormack, Gavan. "Japan's Positive Pacifism: Issues of Historical Memory in Contemporary Foreign Policy," *Brown Journal of World Affairs* vol. 20, no. 2: p. 73-92.

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

Akaha, T. 2008. "The Nationalist Discourse in Contemporary Japan: The Role of China and Korea in the Last Decade." *Pacific Focus*, 23: 156-188

Week 8 Midterm Exam

Week 9 Debates on Japanese 'Culture' of Antimilitarism

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.

Akitoshi Miyashita. 2007. "Where do norms come from? Foundations of Japan's postwar

pacifism.” *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* 7 (1): 99–120.

Week 10 Article 9 and Japan’s Postwar Security Policy

Green, Michel. 2001. *Japan’s Reluctant Realism: Foreign Policy Challenges in an Era of Uncertain Power*. New York: Palgrave. Introduction

Heginbotham, Eric, and Richard J. Samuels. 1998. “Mercantile Realism and Japanese Foreign Policy.” *International Security* 22 (4): 171-203.

Pyle, Kenneth B. 2007. *Japan Rising: The Resurgence of Japanese Power and Purpose*. Ch. 8 “Yoshida Doctrine as Grand Strategy”

Hughes, Christopher. 2006. “Why Japan Could Revise Its Constitution and What It Would Mean for Japanese Security Policy.” *Orbis* 50 (4): 725-744.

Wada, Shuichi. 2010. “Article Nine of the Japanese Constitution and Security Policy: Realism Versus Idealism in Japan Since the Second World War.” *Japan Forum* 22 (3-4): 405-431

Week 11 Japan’s Strategic Debates after the 1990s

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.

Arase, David. 2007. “Japan, the Active State?: Security Policy after 9/11.” *Asian Survey* 47(4): 560–583.

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 12 Japan’s Historical and Territorial Controversies with Surrounding States

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

Park, Cheol-Hee. 2007. “Japanese Strategic Thinking toward Korea.” In: Rozman G., Togo K., Ferguson J.P. (eds) *Japanese Strategic Thought toward Asia. Strategic Thought in Northeast Asia*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Choi, Sung-jae, 2005. “The politics of the Dokdo issue.” *Journal of East Asian Studies*, 5(3): 465–494.

Nakano, Ryoko. 2016. “The Sino–Japanese Territorial Dispute and Threat Perception in

Power Transition.” *The Pacific Review* 29 (2): 165-186

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.

Week 13 Foreign and Security Policies under Abe

Mike M. Mochizuki & Samuel Parkinson Porter. 2013. “Japan under Abe: Toward Moderation or Nationalism?” *The Washington Quarterly*, 36:4, 25-41

Hughes, C.W., 2015. “The Origins and Ideological Drivers of the ‘Abe Doctrine.’” In *Japan’s Foreign and Security Policy Under the ‘Abe Doctrine’: New Dynamism or New Dead End?* Palgrave Macmillan: 8-27.

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”

Nakanishi, Hiroshi (2015) Reorienting Japan? Security Transformation Under the Second Abe Cabinet. *Asian Perspective* 39 (3): 405-422.

Week 14 Memorial Day (No Class)

Week 15 Student Presentations

Week 16 Final Exam