Class: Mon/Wed 11-12:20pm  Room: Gardner?  Office: 1413 Robinson  Email: ekrauss@ucsd.edu
Office Hrs: Mon/Wed 3:20-4:30pm ; Or by appointment

SCOPE AND PURPOSE: The focus of this course is the basic analysis of postwar politics in Japan, including some brief historical and conceptual background; electoral systems and elections; parties; and the prime minister and policymaking, all before and after the 1990s electoral and administrative reforms which changed much, but not all about Japanese politics. Japan since the early 1990s has experienced perhaps the greatest political changes since the American Occupation (1945-1952). This course will analyze the “nuts and bolts” of Japanese politics using as a theme the questions of how and why these changes have occurred and their implications.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE: It is expected that you will have done the reading for the week, before the week's discussions begin [i.e., before Monday's class]. Everyone is also expected to participate in each class session.

1) Essay Exams [50%]: Two short take-home essays and based on questions given out week before concerning 1) topics for weeks 1-4 and then 2) another concerning topics for weeks 4-7.

2) Group Class Presentation [15%]: the class will be divided into groups of 2-4 persons to conduct research on several specific recent issues in Japanese politics that relate to one or more of the units of the class. Students will be assigned to one group, and each group will consist of students who can conduct research in English and in Japanese. During the last 2-3 weeks of the course, each group will make a presentation to the rest of the class about their theme. The purpose of the presentation is to provide as much information from both English and Japanese sources about that issue, what it was about, who the major actors were, and how events unfolded. In other words, to describe the who”, what”, when” , how” of the issues [but not particularly the why”]. After each group’s 15 minute collectively-prepared presentation, the entire class will get to ask the group questions about it. Each group will receive a grade depending on the depth and breadth of the bibliography used to research the presentation that they hand in on the day of the presentation, the thoroughness and skill of their presentation, and their handling of questions afterwards. Everyone in the group will receive the same grade and preparation for the presentation will be a collective effort. No exceptions.

3) Individual or Group Final Exam/Paper [25%]: Different groups will write a paper based on the topic they presented in class (see 2 above). Students will use the information their group gathered and feedback on their presentations to write the paper, organized around an analytical question or theme. Students may either write the paper individually in which case the student will perform her/his own analysis and write his/her own essay of 5-6 pages with the grade assigned only to the individual; OR, two or more persons in the group may perform the analysis and write a paper collectively of 10-20 pages (5 additional pp. beyond 5pp for each person beyond one in the group writing the paper) in which case everyone in the group will receive the same grade [and there will be no appeals from or exceptions to this rule nor any complaints entertained about ‘burden-sharing’ or participation within the group].

4) Class Participation [10%]: quality and frequency throughout the course.

IMPORTANT: PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING ARE NOT TOLERATED IN THIS CLASS!!!! Whether in-class or take-home exams, exams are written by YOU ALONE. It is NOT a cooperative exercise. Once a question is given out you may not consult with any other student in the class, nor use the words of anyone else in writing unless you cite outside sources (direct quotations should be used sparingly—perhaps a maximum of two per exam) for everything except common knowledge. Penalties for violating these rules will be severe. (At a minimum, a zero on the exam and a good chance of failing the course). BE AWARE OF WHAT PLAGIARISM IS AND HOW TO AVOID IT. BE AWARE THAT COOPERATION ON AN INDIVIDUAL EXAMINATION IS CHEATING AND AVOID IT. SEE MY STYLE SHEET IN FIRST CLASS FOLDER AND SENT TO YOU AS AN ATTACHMENT TO EMAIL BEFORE CLASS The only exception to the rule on cooperation is the group papers. But even here you may cooperate with and discuss the paper only with others in the group, not anyone outside it; and the rules on plagiarism still apply.
**READINGS:** The following book is required but available online. It is indicated in the course outline with author's last name in CAPITAL LETTERS:


Additionally, there are articles on UCSD e-reserves (SSH Library) and in the First Class folder for this course. Each is indicated in the course outline with both a number and the author's last name not in capital letters. A full list of all articles and sources is at the end of this syllabus. **PLEASE NOTE: THE PASSWORD FOR E-RESERVES FOR THIS COURSE IS [to be announced].**

**COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIRED READINGS**

[Outline below is given as target only; actual dates may vary]

**Mon JAN 5: INTRODUCTION**  
Introducing ourselves and the course; Various Questions

**Wed JAN 7: BACKGROUND:**  
THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

**Readings:**

**Mon JAN 12: THE OLD ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**

**Readings:**
GEORGE MULGAN, CHS. 1, 2,


**Wed JAN 14: THE OLD PARTY SYSTEM AND THE DIET**

**Readings:**

**Mon JAN 19: MLK BIRTHDAY—NO CLASS**

**Wed JAN 21; Mon JAN 26: REFORM AND THE NEW ELECTORAL SYSTEM: CHANGE AND NON-CHANGE**

**Readings:**

GEORGE MULGAN, ch. 3, 7

Wed JAN 28: THE NEW PARTY SYSTEM—RISE OF DPJ
Readings:


Wed JAN 28 FIRST ESSAY EXAM DUE

Mon FEB 2: THE 2005 ELECTION: KOIZUMI'S GAMBLE
Readings:

    Posted September 22, 2005

Wed FEB 4 Mon Feb 9: THE 2009 and 2012 HOR & 2010 and 2013 HOC ELECTIONS: WHAT IS GOING ON IN JAPANESE POLITICS!? 
Readings:


Mon FEB 11; Mon FEB 16: President’s Day-NO CLASS; Wed Feb 18; Mon Feb 23: PRIME MINISTER AND POLICYMAKING, PRE-AND POST-REFORM
Wed FEB 18: 2nd TAKE-HOME ESSAY DUE
Readings:

GEORGE MULGAN, chs. 4, 5.


Wed FEB 25: CLASS PRESENTATIONS 1
Mon MAR 2: CLASS PRESENTATIONS 2
Wed MAR 4: CLASS PRESENTATIONS 3

Mon MAR 9 and Wed MAR 11: ABE - ANOTHER THATCHEER? HAS JAPAN BECOME A WESTMINSTER SYSTEM? THE FUTURE

Readings:


GEORGE MULGAN, ch. 8

FINAL PAPER DUE; DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS.