

**Class: Mon/Wed 11-12:20pm Room: Gardner? Office: 1413 Robinson Email: [ekrauss@ucsd.edu](mailto: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:

**GEORGE MULGAN, Aurelia. Power and Pork: The Political Life of a Japanese Politician (Canberra, Australia: ANU E Press and Asia Pacific Press, Australia National University 2006). Free download online at: [http://press.anu.edu.au/titles/power\\_pork\\_citation/pdf-download/](http://press.anu.edu.au/titles/power_pork_citation/pdf-download/)**

**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:**

1. Herbert Passin, "The Occupation--Some Reflections," Daedalus, Vol. 119, no. 3 (Summer, 1990), pp. 107- 129.
2. Robert A. Scalapino and Junnosuke Masumi, Parties and Politics in Contemporary Japan, ch. V ("The Crisis of May-June, 1960"), pp. 125-153.

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

#### **Readings:**

GEORGE MULGAN, CHS. 1,2,

3. J. Mark Ramseyer and Frances McCall Rosenbluth, Japan's Political Marketplace, ch. 2 ("Electoral Rules and Party Strategy"), pp. 16-37.

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

#### **Readings:**

4. Ethan Scheiner, "Pipelines of Pork: Japanese Politics and a Model of Local Opposition Party Failure," Comparative Political Studies, Vol. 38 No. 7, September 2005 799-823

#### **Mon JAN 19: MLK BIRTHDAY—NO CLASS**

#### **Wed JAN 21; Mon JAN 26**

#### **REFORM AND THE NEW ELECTORAL SYSTEM: CHANGE AND NON-CHANGE**

#### **Readings:**

5. Ellis S. Krauss and Robert Pekkanen Pekkanen, "Explaining Party Adaptation to Electoral Reform: The Discreet Charm of the LDP?" Journal of Japanese Studies, Vol. 30, No. 1 (January 2004), pp. 1-33.

GEORGE MULGAN, ch. 3, 7

6. Frances McCall Rosenbluth and Michael Thies, "Japan's New Politics," ch. 5 of Japan Transformed: Political Change and Economic Restructuring (Princeton University Press, 2010), pp. 95-122.

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

7. Mari Miura, Kap Yun Lee, and Robert, J. Weiner, “Who are the DPJ? Policy Positioning and Recruitment Strategy,” *Asian Perspective*, Vol. 29, No. 1, (2005), pp. 49-77.

8. Phillip Y. Lipsky and Ethan Scheiner, “Japan Under the DPJ: The Paradox of Political Change Without Policy Change,” *Journal of East Asian Studies* 12 (2012), 311–322

**Wed JAN 28 FIRST ESSAY EXAM DUE****Mon FEB 2: THE 2005 ELECTION: KOIZUMI’S GAMBLE****Readings:**

9. Margarita Estevez-Abe, “An Analysis of the 2005 Japanese General Election: Will Koizumi’s Political Reforms Endure?” *Asian Survey*, Vol XLVI, No. 4 (July/August 2006).

10. Takehiko Kambayashi, “TV Coverage Sweeps LDP Back into Power,” *Japan Media Review* online at <http://www.japanmediareview.com/japan/stories/050922kambayashi/>  
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:**

11. Ellis S. Krauss and Robert Pekkanen, ‘Asia Beyond the Headlines: The Rise and Fall of Japan’s Liberal Democratic Party’ *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 69, No. 1 (February, 2010), pp. 5-15.

12. Satoshi Machidori, “Behind Japan’s Political Turmoil,” *Nippon.com*, November 29, 2011. Online at: <http://www.nippon.com/en/features/c00401/>

13. Taniguchi Masaki, Sakaiya Shirō, Ōkawa Chihiro, Uenohara Hideaki, “Upper House Election 2010: What Does It Mean for the DPJ?” in *Japan Echo*, No. 3 October-November 2010. Available at *Japan Echo* website at: <http://www.japanpolicyforum.jp/en/pdf/Upper%20House%20Election.pdf>

**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: 2<sup>ND</sup> TAKE-HOME ESSAY DUE****Readings:**

14 Chalmers Johnson, "Tanaka Kakuei, Structural Corruption, and the Advent of Machine Politics in Japan," from his from his *Japan: Who Governs*, pp. 183-211

GEORGE MULGAN, chs. 4, 5.

15. Ellis S. Krauss and Benjamin Nyblade, “Presidentialization’ in Japan? The Prime Minister, Media and Elections in Japan,” *British Journal of Political Science* 35 (2005), pp. 357-368

16. Machidori Satoshi, “The 1990s Reforms Have Transformed Japanese Politics,” *Japan Echo* (June 2005), pp. 38-43 [translation of “Koizumi chōki seiken o sasaeru seiji kaikaku no seika,” *Chūō Kōron* (April 2005), pp. 176-184].

17. Tanaka Hideaki, “Political Leadership and the Policymaking Process (1),” April 16, 2010; available from Tokyo Foundation web site: <http://www.tokyofoundation.org/en/articles/2010/political-leadership-and-the-policymaking-process-1> [continued on next page]

18. Tanaka Hideaki, "Political Leadership and the Policymaking Process (2)," April 28, 2010; available from Tokyo Foundation web site: <http://www.tokyofoundation.org/en/articles/2010/political-leadership-and-the-policymaking-process-2>

19. Sheila Smith, "Japan's New Prime Minister: Staying in Power for the Long Haul," Foreign Affairs, August 30, 2011, pp.

**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 THATCHER? HAS JAPAN BECOME A WESTMINSTER SYSTEM? THE FUTURE**

**Readings:**

20. Steven R. Reed, Ethan Scheiner, Dan Smith, and Michael Thies, "The Japanese General Election of 2012: Sometimes, Lucky is Better than Popular," The Monkey Cage, December 27, 2012. Available online at <http://themonkeycage.org/2012/12/27/the-japanese-general-election-of-2012-sometimes-lucky-is-better-than-popular/>

21. Jeffrey W. Hornung, "Japan Chair Platform: Abe's Challenges Ahead" CSIS July 10, 2013. Online: <http://csis.org/publication/japan-chair-platform-abes-challenges-ahead>

22. Isabel Reynolds and Takashi Hirokawa, "Abe Threatens Ministries With Power Shift Rivaling MacArthur," Bloomberg, August 13, 2013. Available online: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-08-12/abe-threatens-ministries-with-power-shift-rivaling-macarthur-era.html>

23. Takenaka Harukata, "Parliamentary Democracy in Japan: Japan in Pursuit of Westminster Democracy," Nippon.com, September 25, 2013. Available online at: [www.nippon.com/en/in-depth/a02301/](http://www.nippon.com/en/in-depth/a02301/)

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**FINAL PAPER DUE; DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS.**