

PLSC 417/EAST 400
Politics and Economics in Japan

Spring 2019

When: Monday 1:30-3:20 p.m.
Where: WTS A68
Office Hours: By appointment

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1. Course Description

Japan has undergone far-reaching political and economic transformations since the 1990s, from elections characterized by personalistic appeals to elections characterized by increasingly programmatic party competition, and from insulated markets to open markets. However, in the new context of prolonged low growth and structural developments, Japan continues to experience major political changes and face important political challenges. This seminar offers an introduction to current politics and economics in Japan. To begin, it puts politics and economics in Japan in a historical perspective. Then, it addresses a range of contemporary issues, including demographics, migration, and women's role in society.

2. Learning Objectives

The objectives of this seminar are: (1) to introduce basic concepts used in the study of politics and to clarify their normative content; (2) to learn how to interpret quantitative data; (3) to introduce the main trends in Japanese politics and some key political challenges; and (4) to introduce the initiatives to respond to political challenges in Japan.

3. Requirements

Students are expected to complete the reading assignment for each class meeting and actively participate in class discussions. Students are also responsible for mastering additional materials that are introduced in class.

Course grades are based on the following components:

- **Two** turns as discussion leader for seminar meetings (**10%**)
- **Three** discussion papers (4-5 double-spaced pages) (**45%**)
 - Discussion papers are due at the beginning of class for the relevant week's readings. Students may choose the weeks when they submit their discussion papers starting with the third meeting of class.
- **Five** in-class quizzes (**15%**)
 - Students will be given six in-class quizzes based on material covered in the weekly PowerPoint slides and the readings. The lowest quiz score will be dropped. Provisional dates are given below but may change slightly. Exact dates will be announced in class.
- **One** research paper (10 double-spaced pages) (**30%**)
 - For the final assignment, students will write a research paper due at the beginning of class at the final class meeting. Students are expected to start thinking about their paper topics by the fourth meeting of class.

4. Readings

All readings are accessible through Canvas. The readings which students are responsible for reading for each class meeting are listed below. Specific page numbers are clearly indicated.

5. Academic Integrity and Writing Assistance

Students are expected to follow the Yale College rules about plagiarism, cheating, and documentation (<http://catalog.yale.edu/undergraduate-regulations/policies/definitions-plagiarism-cheating/>). Correctly using and documenting sources is a key aspect of professional and academic work. Plagiarism in any form is a serious offense and will not be treated lightly. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Yale College Executive Committee. Students are encouraged to use the resources provided by Yale College's Writing Center (<https://ctl.yale.edu/writing/undergraduate-writing>) when preparing writing assignments.

6. Course Outline and Readings

Week 1 (1/14). Course Introduction and Background on Japan's Postwar Miracle

Flath, David. 2005. *The Japanese Economy*. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 43–66.
Gordon, Andrew. 2003. *The Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present*. New York: Oxford University Press, 224–243.
The Pacific Century. “Episode 6—The Era of ‘Japan Inc.’”

1. Economics under the 1955 System: “Miraculous” Economic Growth

Week 2 (*Friday 1/18*). The Miracle and Bureaucrats

Johnson, Chalmers A. 1982. *MITI and the Japanese Miracle: The Growth of Industrial Policy, 1925-1975*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1–82.
Okimoto, Daniel I. 1988. “The Societal State.” In *Inside the Japanese System: Readings on Contemporary Society and Political Economy*, eds. Daniel I. Okimoto and Thomas P. Rohlen. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 211–14.
Okimoto, Daniel I. 1988. “The Costs of Japanese Industrial Policy.” In *Inside the Japanese System: Readings on Contemporary Society and Political Economy*, eds. Daniel I. Okimoto and Thomas P. Rohlen. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 222–26.

2. Politics under the 1955 System: The Politics Behind the Miracle

Week 3 (1/28). The Miracle and Politicians

Curtis, Gerald L. 1971. *Election Campaigning Japanese Style*. New York: Columbia University Press, 33–86.
Ramseyer, J. Mark, and Frances McCall Rosenbluth. 1993. *Japan's Political Marketplace*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 99–120.
Rosenbluth, Frances McCall, and Michael F. Thies. 2010. *Japan Transformed: Political Change and Economic Restructuring*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 72–94.

- **Quiz #1**

Week 4 (2/4). Long-Term LDP Dominance and Economic Equality

- Scheiner, Ethan. 2006. *Democracy without Competition in Japan: Opposition Failure in a One-Party Dominant State*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 7–30; 64–89.
- Estévez-Abe, Margarita. 2008. *Welfare and Capitalism in Postwar Japan*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1–50.

3. Economics since the 1990s

Week 5 (2/11). Economic Explanations for the End of the Miracle

- Grimes, William W. 2001. *Unmaking the Japanese Miracle: Macroeconomic Politics, 1985-2000*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, xvii–xxi; 1–29.
- Hoshi, Takeo, and Anil K. Kashyap. 2004. “Japan’s Financial Crisis and Economic Stagnation.” *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 18(1): 3–26.
- Amyx, Jennifer A. 2001. “Informality and Institutional Inertia: The Case of Japanese Financial Regulation.” *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 2(1): 47–66.
- Lipsky, Phillip Y., and Hirofumi Takinami. 2013. “The Politics of Financial Crisis Response in Japan and the United States.” *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 14(3): 321–53.

- **Quiz #2**

Week 6 (2/18). Additional Economic Explanations and Changes in Public Spending

- Bernanke, Ben S. 2000. “Japanese Monetary Policy: A Case of Self-Induced Paralysis?” In *Japan’s Financial Crisis and Its Parallels to U.S. Experience*, eds. Ryoichi Mikitani and Adam Simon Posen. Washington: Institute for International Economics, 149–66.
- Koo, Richard C. 2008. *The Holy Grail of Macroeconomics: Lessons from Japan’s Great Recession*. Singapore: Wiley, 1–37.
- Park, Gene. 2011. *Spending Without Taxation: FILP and the Politics of Public Finance in Japan*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 177–216.

Week 7 (2/25). Protection after the Miracle

- Schoppa, Leonard J. 2006. *Race for the Exits: The Unraveling of Japan’s System of Social Protection*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1–16.
- Ono, Hiroshi. 2010. “Lifetime Employment in Japan: Concepts and Measurements.” *Journal of the Japanese and International Economies* 24(1): 1–27.
- Song, Jiyeoun. 2012. “The Diverging Political Pathways of Labor Market Reform in Japan and Korea.” *Journal of East Asian Studies* 12(2): 161–92.

- **Quiz #3**

Week 8 (3/4). Corporate Governance Reform

- Vogel, Steven K. 2006. *Japan Remodeled: How Government and Industry Are Reforming Japanese Capitalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2–21; 205–224.
- Schaede, Ulrike. 2008. *Choose and Focus: Japanese Business Strategies for the 21st Century*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1–46; 253–260.

Spring Break

4. Politics since the 1990s

Week 9 (3/25). Electoral Reform and Its Effects

- Cox, Gary W., Frances McCall Rosenbluth, and Michael F. Thies. 1999. “Electoral Reform and the Fate of Factions: The Case of Japan’s Liberal Democratic Party.” *British Journal of Political Science* 29(1): 33–56.
- Horiuchi, Yusaku, and Jun Saito. 2003. “Reapportionment and Redistribution: Consequences of Electoral Reform in Japan.” *American Journal of Political Science* 47(4): 669–82.
- Estévez-Abe, Margarita. 2006. “Japan’s Shift toward a Westminster System: A Structural Analysis of the 2005 Lower House Election and Its Aftermath.” *Asian Survey* 46(4): 632–651.

- **Quiz #4**

Week 10 (4/1). The Rise and Fall of the Opposition: The Democratic Party of Japan

- Miura, Mari, Kap Yun Lee, and Robert Weiner. 2005. “Who Are the DPJ? Policy Positioning and Recruitment Strategy.” *Asian Perspective* 29(1): 49–77.
- Pempel, T.J. 2010. “Between Pork and Productivity: The Collapse of the Liberal Democratic Party.” *Journal of Japanese Studies* 36(2): 227–54.
- Kushida, Kenji E., and Phillip Y. Lipsky. 2013. “The Rise and Fall of the Democratic Party of Japan.” In *Japan Under the DPJ: The Politics of Transition and Governance*, eds. Kenji E. Kushida and Phillip Y. Lipsky. Stanford: Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, 3–44.

5. Current Topics

Week 11 (4/8). Demographics and Women

- Schoppa, Leonard J. 2008. “Demographics and the State.” In *The Demographic Challenge: A Handbook about Japan*, eds. Florian Coulmas, Harald Conrad, Annette Schad-Seifert, and Gabriele Vogt. Leiden: Brill, 639–52.
- Schoppa, Leonard. 2010. “Exit, Voice, and Family Policy in Japan: Limited Changes Despite Broad Recognition of the Declining Fertility Problem.” *Journal of European Social Policy* 20(5): 422–32.
- Schoppa, Leonard J. 2011. “Policies for an Aging/Low Fertility Society.” In *Routledge Handbook of Japanese Politics*, ed. Alisa Gaunder. London: Routledge, 201–11.

- Ogai, Tokuko. 2001. "Japanese Women and Political Institutions: Why Are Women Politically Underrepresented?" *PS: Political Science and Politics* 34(2): 207–10.
- Rosenbluth, Frances McCall. 2007. "The Political Economy of Low Fertility." In *The Political Economy of Japan's Low Fertility*, ed. Frances McCall Rosenbluth. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 3–36.
- Kenjoh, Eiko. 2007. "Employment Options: Japan in Comparative Perspective." In *The Political Economy of Japan's Low Fertility*, ed. Frances McCall Rosenbluth. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 112–30.

- **Quiz #5**

Week 12 (4/15). Ethnicity and Migration

- Lie, John. 2001. *Multi-Ethnic Japan*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 27–52.
- Sharpe, Michael O. 2014. *Postcolonial Citizens and Ethnic Migration: The Netherlands and Japan in the Age of Globalization*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 112–133.
- Liu-Farrer, Gracia. 2009. "Educationally Channeled International Labor Mobility: Contemporary Student Migration from China to Japan." *The International Migration Review* 43(1): 178–204.
- Milly, Deborah J. 2014. *New Policies for New Residents: Immigrants, Advocacy, and Governance in Japan and Beyond*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 60–81.

Week 13 (4/22). Abenomics

- Hausman, Joshua K., and Johannes F. Wieland. 2014. "Abenomics: Preliminary Analysis and Outlook." *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*: 1–76, especially 1–57.
- Katz, Richard. 2014. "Voodoo Abenomics: Japan's Failed Comeback Plan." *Foreign Affairs* 93(4). <http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/141480/richard-katz/voodoo-abenomics>.
- Nagase, Nobuko. 2018. "Has Abe's Womanomics Worked?" *Asian Economic Policy Review* 13(1): 68–101.

- **Quiz #6**
- **Research paper due**