Northeast Asian Politics: Japan

Course Description

The postwar Japanese regime has been characterized by economic growth and one-party dominance. Currently both characteristics are challenged by the longest recession in postwar history and the weakening of one-party rule. The transformation of domestic politics has an international context: the change in U.S.-Japan relations due to increased economic integration among industrial democracies, the rapid economic growth of East Asian nations, and the end of the Cold War. This course will examine the consolidation (1945-55), development (1955-74), and transformation (1975-present) of the postwar Japanese regime by looking into changes in political participation, groups in the policy process, party-bureaucracy relations, and the party system. The aim of the course is to place Japan in a comparative perspective and understand the interaction between its domestic and international policies.

Readings

There are eight books and a reader for purchase. All the books will be on reserve at Moffitt Library. Duplicate copies of the books and the reader will also be available at the Institute of International Studies Library in Stephens Hall.

8. Walter Hatch & Kozo Yamamura, Asia in Japan’s Embrace: Building a Regional Production Alliance (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996)
Class Requirement and Grading

Class Participation (30%)
Book Review (20%)
Take Home Mid-term (20%)
Finals (in class) (30%)

1. Since there will be no discussion sessions students will be requested to give one or two (depending on the size of the class) 10 minute presentation(s) of the required readings in class which will count as class participation.

2. Both the book review and mid-term should be about 10 pages (typed). You can choose between two deadlines for the book review. Option I books are general books or books that deal with the postwar Japanese system (for example, 2,3,4,5 of the above). Option II books are those that focus on changes in the last two decades (eq, 6,7,8). With the permission of the instructor you may also review (i) two or more books, (ii) other books in this syllabi (see attached book list), or (iii) books on topics not dealt in class. Extra credit may be given to those who review two or more books or especially thick/difficult books. Such arrangements must be made before the end of week 4.

3. There will be no exceptions for deadlines
PART I: THE POSTWAR (1955) REGIME

Week 1 The Postwar Settlement: The Domestic Impact of the War, Occupational Reforms, and the Cold War

Chalmers Johnson, MITI and the Japanese Miracle, pp. 157-197 (_From the Ministry of Munitions to MITI_)

*Junnosuke Masumi, Postwar Politics in Japan, 1945-1955, pp. 239-273 (_The Zaikai, _Agriculture, _Labor_).


Week 2-3 The Postwar Regime (1): The State and the _Dual_ Economy

2. _The Developmental State_ and its Critics

Chalmers Johnson, MITI and the Japanese Miracle, pp. 198-274 (_The Institutions of High-Speed Growth, _Administrative Guidance_).

*Daniel I. Okimoto, Between MITI and the Market, pp. 113-176 (_MITI and Industrial Organization_).


**Gregory Noble, _The Industry Policy Debate_, in Haggard & Moon (eds.), Pacific Dynamics, pp. 53-95.


3. _Industrial Relations, the Unions, and the Left_


*M. Donald Hancock & Haruo Shimada, _Wage Determination in Japan and West Germany_, in Fukui, et al. (eds.), The Politics of Economic Change in Postwar Japan and West Germany, pp. 207-232.

*T. J. Pempel and Keiichi Tsunekawa, _Corporatism without Labor?_ in Schmitter & Lehmbruch (eds.), *Trends Toward Corporatist Intermediation*, pp. 231-270

4. The _Dual_ Economy and the Urban Base of LDP Rule


Kent E. Calder, *Crisis and Compensation*, pp. 312-348 (_Small Business Policy_)

*•David Friedman, _The Misunderstood Miracle_, pp. 1-36 (_Explaining the Japanese Miracle_).

Week 5-7 The Postwar Regime (2): Waning One Party Dominance and the Fragmentation of Opposition

5. The _Dual_ Economy and the Rural Base of LDP Rule

Kent E. Calder, *Crisis and Compensation*, pp. 231-273 (_Agricultural Policy_)


6. Party and Bureaucracy in Aggregating the Interests of the _Dual_ Economy


BOOK REVIEW DUE FOR OPTION I BOOKS (March 7)
7. _New Issues_ and the Fragmentation of Opposition

*Margaret McKeon, _Pollution and Policymaking,_ in Pempel (ed.), *Policymaking in Contemporary Japan,* pp. 201-238.

Kent E. Calder, _Crisis and Compensation,_ pp. 249-275 (_Welfare Policy_)


*Junnosuke Masumi, _Contemporary Politics in Japan,* pp. 383-407 (_Multiple Parties and Nonpartisans_).

*Scott C. Flanagan, _Electoral Change in Japan,_ in Steiner et al. (eds.), _Political Opposition and Local Politics in Japan,* pp. 35-54.


---

**Week 8 The Postwar Regime (3): The U.S.-Japan Alliance and Domestic Politics**


---

**TAKE HOME MID-TERM** (distributed on March 17, handed in on 21)

**PART II. THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE POSTWAR REGIME**

**Week 9 Economic Globalization and Domestic Change (1): Economic Interdependence and Liberalization**

Dorothy B. Christelow, _When Giants Converge,* pp. 3-57, (•)103-203.

*Steven K. Vogel, _Freer Markets, More Rules,* pp. 9-61 (_The Forces for Change_)

• Timothy Curran, _Internationalization, and the Role of Multinationals in U.S.-Japan Relations,* in Curtis (ed.), _Japan's Foreign Policy after the Cold War,* pp. 160-178.

**Week 10-12 Economic Globalization and Domestic Change (2): U.S.-Japan**
10. The Initial Pattern, 1974-79 (1): Economic Relations


**Gilbert R. Winham & Ikuo Kabashima, _The Politics of U.S.-Japanese Auto Trade_ in Destler & Sato (eds), Coping with U.S.-Japanese Economic Conflicts, pp. 73-120.

*C. Randall Henning, Currencies and Politics in the United States, Germany and Japan, pp. 123-134 (_Monetary and Exchange Rate Policymaking in Japan_)

*I.M. Destler & Hisao Mitsuyu _Locomotives on Different Tracks_, in Destler & Sato (eds), Coping with U.S.-Japanese Economic Conflicts, pp. 27-72.

11: The Initial Pattern, 1974-79 (2): Domestic Adjustment

Robert M. Uriu, Troubled Industries, pp. 186-236 (_Mixed Incentive Industries_).

*Seuo Sekiguchi, _An Overview of Adjustment Assistance Policies in Japan_ in Tan & Shimada (eds.), Troubled Industries in the United States and Japan, pp. 95-122


BOOK REVIEW DUE FOR OPTION II BOOKS (April 11)

12. Recurring Patterns and Change, 1980s and 90s


*C. Randall Henning, Currencies and Politics in the United States, Germany and Japan, pp. 134-176 (_Monetary and Exchange Rate Policymaking in Japan_)

**Frank K. Upham, _Retail Convergence_ in Berger & Dore (eds), National Diversity and Global Capitalism, pp. 263-297.


**Frances Rosenbluth, _Japan’s Response to the Strong Yen_ in Curtis (ed.), Japan’s Foreign Policy After the Cold War, pp. 137-159.


•Richard F. Doner, *Japanese Foreign Investment and the Creation of a Pacific Asian Region,* in Frankel & Kahler (eds.), *Regionalism and Rivalry*, pp. 159-216.

•Shafiqui Islam, _Foreign Aid and Burdensharing,* in Frankel & Kahler (eds.), *Regionalism and Rivalry*, pp. 321-372.

•Steven W. Hook, *National Interest and Foreign Aid*, pp. 143-164 (*The Comparative Record*).

**Week 14 Domestic Adjustment and the Transformation of the Party System**


•Michio Muramatsu & Masaru Mabuchi, _Introducing a New Tax in Japan_ in Kernell (ed.), *Parallel Politics*, pp. 184-207.

•John Campbell, *How Policies Change*, pp. 282-351 (*Health Care Reform, Refoming the Pension System*)


**Week 15 Conclusion: Understanding Japan in 1997**

**15a. Corruption and Political Reform**


15c. National and Economic Security After the Cold War


**Peter J. Katzenstein, *Cultural Norms and National Security,* pp. 131-152 (_The U.S.-Japan Relationship_)