

**Japanese Government and Politics**  
Political Science 322 - UBC - 2007-8 Term 1  
<http://faculty.arts.ubc.ca/bnyblade/poli322.html>

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**Course Description and Objectives:**

Despite Japan's increasingly important role in global society, Japanese politics are not well understood beyond its borders. This course covers Japanese party politics, policymaking, political economy and foreign policy, during the fairly stable "1955 System" of Liberal Democratic Party dominance as well the more recent (and turbulent) era of "Heisei Politics."

The objective of this course is to help students better understand Japanese politics using the tools and theories of political science. Students are expected to develop substantive knowledge of contemporary Japanese political history. More importantly, students are expected to understand and critically analyze the various theories used to explain Japanese politics.

**Readings:**

The readings assigned for this course are primarily from academic journals, and all required readings for this course are available online. Many of the readings are available through the UBC library's subscription to electronic journals, and may only be downloaded from a UBC IP Address or proxy. You are strongly encouraged to download and print out the readings for the entire course during early in the term. Links to all required readings can be found on the course website. There are normally 3 articles (averaging 75 pages total) each week to read.

Some weeks the readings emphasize theoretic arguments while the lectures focus more on empirical examples. In other weeks this pattern is reversed. The readings and lectures have been designed to complement—not repeat—each other. Skipping either the lectures or the readings will leave you with an inadequate grasp of essential course material. Frequently the various readings will present contrasting perspectives or even directly disagree with each other. Do not accept what you read (or even hear in lecture) as the absolute truth, in this or any other course. Reconciling conflicting ideas and perspectives is an important skill that one should develop in studying political science.

**Course Requirements:**

There are three major assignments for this course: one essay, one mid-term examination and one final examination. The mid-term will be on the Thursday of Week 6. The essay will be due the Thursday of Week 9. The essay and mid-term are each worth 25% of your final mark while the final exam is worth 30%. Class participation and weekly assignments submitted via email make up 20% of your grade.

All essays must be submitted in person to the instructor. To avoid a late penalty, a letter from Arts Advising (Buch A201, 822-4028) is required for any student handing in an essay after the beginning of class on the day in which they are due. Unexcused late essays will be given a flat 10 point penalty if they are handed in by the beginning of the next class. After that no

unexcused late essays will be accepted. Alternative times to take the final examination will be allowed only in accordance with UBC policy. Email assignments are due by Monday 5 p.m. each week. Those submitted after that but before Thursday's class will receive partial credit. Unexcused email assignments received after 9:30 a.m. on Thursday will receive no credit.

### Key Dates

October 11 (Thursday Week 6): Midterm Examination

November 1(Thursday Week 9): Essay Due

TBA (Final Exam)

### **Weekly Email Assignments:**

In order to encourage students to keep up with the readings and be able to participate knowledgeably in class, I require weekly email assignments. For weeks with required readings, the assignment is to summarize the readings for the upcoming week. In these emails, students should send me their notes on the readings, including for each reading: one paragraph summarizing the major point(s) of the reading and one paragraph summarizing their thoughts on the reading. Students should also use this as an opportunity to ask questions and bring up points they think might be interesting to discuss in class.

You should email each assignment to me at [bnyblade@politics.ubc.ca](mailto:bnyblade@politics.ubc.ca). Please use the subject heading: "POLI 322 Week X Assignment" when sending the email. You should not assume that I have received your email unless you receive an email in response from me. I will do my best to fully and promptly answer each email: confirming receipt of your email, answering questions, and responding to any comments you might have. I am also available to meet with during office hours, and am willing to make appointments to meet at other times as necessary.

### **The Essay:**

The essay will be a response to the two prompts provided at the end of the syllabus. The essay should be no more than 1600 words long, double-spaced, with 12 point font. You should be able to receive excellent marks on the essay drawing only on the required readings and lectures as sources, although you are not prohibited from using other sources. All sources must be properly cited: references to course readings or lectures should be made using parenthetical citations, e.g. (Lee, 517) or (Lecture, 9/4). Other sources should be cited using footnotes with full-length references. A bibliography is not necessary. Essays must use correct grammar and evince proper style. Failure to follow these basic requirements will result in a substantially lower grade.

Instances of academic dishonesty will be prosecuted in accordance with UBC policy. As per departmental policy, all essays must be submitted to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com). Submission to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com) must be done by the end of the day the essay is due or late penalties will apply.

Because writing short essays well is challenging, students will receive extensive comments from the instructor and have the opportunity to rewrite their essay and resubmit it in light of the feedback they receive. If students rewrite their essay, they must resubmit the essay within one week of the date student essays are returned in class, and the final mark on the assignment will be an average of the two marks.

## READINGS

### **Week 2: The Occupation and its Aftermath (Sept. 11/13)**

- 1a. Justin Williams. "Completing Japan's Political Reorientation, 1947-52." *The American Historical Review*. Vol. 73, No. 5 (June 1968), pp. 1454-1469.
- 1b. Victor (Masaru) Otake and Douglas G. Haring. "Japan Looks Back on the Occupation." *Far Eastern Survey*. Vol. 22, No. 3 (Feb 1953), pp. 26-32.
2. Ray A. Moore. "The Occupation as History: Some Recent Research." *Monumenta Nipponica*. Vol. 36, No. 3 (Autumn, 1981), pp. 317-328.
3. Robert A. Scalapino. "The American Occupation of Japan-Perspectives after Three Decades." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. Vol. 428 (Nov. 1976), pp. 104-113.

### **Week 3: The 1955 System: LDP Dominance (Sept. 18/20)**

1. Junnosuke Masumi. "The 1955 System and its Subsequent Development." *Asian Survey*. Vol. 28, No. 3 (Mar., 1988), 286-306.
2. Masaru Kohno. "Rational Foundations for the Organization of the Liberal Democratic Party in Japan." *World Politics*. Vol. 44, No. 3 (Apr. 1992), 369-97.
3. Patrick Köllner, "The Liberal Democratic Party at 50: Sources of Dominance and Changes in the Koizumi Era." *Social Science Japan Journal* (17: 15 pages 2006).

### **Week 4: The 1955 System: Opposition Parties and Elections (Sept. 25/27)**

1. Jooinn Lee. "Komeito: Sokagakkai-ism in Japanese Politics." *Asian Survey* 10 1970, 501-18.
2. Karl Dixon. "The Growth of a "Popular" Japanese Communist Party." *Pacific Affairs* 45(3): 387-402. 1972.
3. Steven R. Reed. "Structure and Behaviour: Extending Duverger's Law to the Japanese Case." *British Journal of Political Science*. Vol. 20, No. 3 (July, 1990), 335-356.

### **Week 5. The Heisei Era: Parties, Elections and Electoral Reform (Oct 2/4)**

- 1a. Hans H. Baerwald. "Japan's House of Councillors Election: A Mini-Revolution?" *Asian Survey*. Vol. 30, No. 6 (June, 1990), 833-841
- 1b. Gregory W. Noble. "Japan in 1993: Humpty Dumpty had a Great Fall." *Asian Survey*. Vol. 34, No. 1 (Jan., 1994), 19-29.
2. Raymond V. Christensen. "The New Japanese Election System." *Pacific Affairs*. Vol. 69, No. 1 (Spring, 1996), 49-70.
3. Aurelia George Mulgan. "The Dynamics of Coalition Politics in Japan." *Asia-Pacific Review*. Vol. 7, No. 2 (Nov., 2000), 66-85.

### **Week 6. The 1955 System: Policymaking (Oct 9/11)**

1. Chalmers Johnson. "Japan: Who Governs? An Essay on Official Bureaucracy." *Journal of Japanese Studies*. 2(1) (Autumn, 1975), 1-28.
2. T.J. Pempel. "The Unbundling of Japan, Inc" The Changing Dynamics of Japanese Policy Formation. *Journal of Japanese Studies* 13:2 1987.
3. Maurice Wright. "Who Governs Japan? Politicians and Bureaucrats in the Policy-making Process." *Political Studies*. Vol. XLVII (1999), 939-954.

### **Week 7. The Heisei Era: Policymaking and the Changing Media & PM (Oct 16/18)**

1. Ikuo Kabashima and Jeffrey Broadbent. "Referent Pluralism: Mass Media and Politics in Japan." *Journal of Japanese Studies*. Vol. 12, No. 2 (Summer, 1986) pp.329-361.
2. Krauss, Ellis S. and Priscilla Lambert, "The Press and Reform in Japan." *Harvard International Journal of Press/Politics* Vol. 7, No. 1 (2002), 57-78.
3. Krauss, Ellis S. and Benjamin Nyblade, "'Presidentialization' in Japan? The PM, Media and Elections in Japan" *British Journal of Political Science* Vol. 35 (2005), 357-68.

### **Week 8. The Heisei Era: Administrative and Legal Reform (Oct 23/25)**

1. Read Nakayama statement on submission and skim "Report of the Research Commission on the Constitution"
2. Koichi Nakano. "The Politics of Administrative Reform in Japan, 1993-1998: Toward a More Accountable Government?" *Asian Survey*. Vol. 38, No. 3 (Mar. 1998), 291-309.
3. Patricia L. MacLachlan. "Storming the Castle: The Battle for Postal Reform in Japan." *Social Science Japan Journal* Vol. 9, No. 1 (2006), pp 1-18.

### **Week 9. The 1955 System: Industrial Policy and Growth (Oct 30/Nov 1)**

1. Ellis S. Krauss. "Political Economy: Policymaking and Industrial Policy in Japan." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. Vol. 25, No. 1 (Mar. 1992), 44-57.
2. Joseph Stiglitz. "Some Lessons From the East Asian Miracle." *The World Bank Research Observer* Vol. 11, No. 2 (1996): 151-77.
3. Andrea Boltho. "Was Japanese Growth Export-Led?" *Oxford Economic Papers* Vol. 48, No. 3 (July 1996): 415-32.

### **Week 10. The Heisei Era: The Politics of Economic Stagnation and Reform (Nov 6/8)**

1. Yamamura, Kozo. "The Japanese Political Economy after the "Bubble": Plus Ca Change?" *Journal of Japanese Studies* 23(2): 291-331.
2. Schaede, Ulrike. 2004. "What Happened to the Japanese Model." *Review of International Economics* 12(2): 277-94.
3. Edward J. Lincoln. "Making Some Sense of the Japanese Economy." JPRI Working Paper No. 94 (Sep. 2003).

### **Week 11. Japan's Postwar Foreign Security Relations (Nov 13/15)**

1. Peter J. Katzenstein and Nobuo Okawara. "Japan's National Security: Structure Norms and Policy." *International Security*. Vol. 17, No. 4 (Spring, 1993), 84-118.
2. Jennifer M. Lind. "Pacifism or Passing the Buck? Testing Theories of Japanese Security Policy." *International Security*. Vol. 29, No. 1 (Summer, 2004), 92-121.
3. Kenneth Pyle, "Abe Shinzo and Japan's Change of Course." *NBR Analysis* 17(4) Oct 2006.

### **Weeks 12-13. Japan's Postwar Foreign Economic Relations (Nov 20/22/27)**

1. Kent E. Calder. "Japanese Foreign Economic Policy Formation: Explaining the Reactive State." *World Politics*. Vol. 40, No. 4 (July, 1988), 517-541.
2. Eric Heginbotham and Richard J. Samuels. "Mercantile Realism and Japanese Foreign Policy." *International Security*. Vol. 22, No. 4 (Spring, 1998), 171-203.
3. Miyashita, Akitoshi, "Gaiatsu & Japan's Foreign Aid: Rethinking the Reactive-Proactive Debate," *International Studies Quarterly* 43:4 (December 1999), 695-731.
4. Tsuda, Takeyuki and Wayne A. Cornelius. "Japan: Government Policy, Immigrant Reality." In Cornelius et al, eds., *Controlling Immigration: A Global Perspective*, 2004, 439-73.

# The Essay

## Essay Prompts:

1. "Bureaucrats rule Japan. They always have and they always will." Critically assess this claim, considering bureaucrats' position in both the typical policymaking process under the 1955 System of LDP dominance and in light of changes that have occurred in the Heisei Era. What policy areas are bureaucrats be likely to more and less influential in, given the policymaking process in Japan? How have reforms in the Heisei Era influenced bureaucrats' power?
2. Some scholars have linked long-term LDP dominance to the nature of elections and the electoral system in Japan. Do you agree? How did the old electoral system influence elections, the institutionalization of the LDP, and the development of opposition parties in Japan?

## A Few Hints for a Good Essay:

Essays must fully answer the prompt, and in so doing present a clear causal argument, support the argument with convincing evidence and address major potential counterarguments. You only have 1600 words, which is not very long, so don't waste space on unnecessary words or irrelevant information.

One of the major problems in student essays is lack of clarity about the central argument. Political science essays should not be mystery novels or suspense thrillers with twists at the end. Clearly identifying the essay's thesis in the first paragraph, for example by noting that "In this paper I argue that..." is a simple and effective (if not necessarily always elegant) way of avoiding this problem. Regardless of the phrasing, if the central argument of a short essay is not apparent by the end of the first paragraph, or the central argument in the first paragraph differs from the argument in the rest of the paper or conclusion, it is impossible to get a decent mark.

The most common distinction between "B" and "A" essays is in the strength with which they support their central argument. Short essays force writers to choose amongst the most efficient and effective ways to support their argument. You must decide which evidence most strongly supports your argument, best addresses counter-arguments, and does so in a very limited space. Writing political science essays is practice in the art of rhetoric, but with social scientific (rather than legal or popular) standards of evidence and argument.

## Turnitin Information:

1. Go to <http://www.turnitin.com>
2. Sign up/log in as appropriate.
3. Use Class ID: 1942083 & Password: jpol
4. ***You must submit to Turnitin before 5 p.m. on November 1<sup>st</sup> to avoid late penalties!***

## Due Dates:

- Essay: November 1<sup>st</sup> Beginning of class (Thursday of Week 9)  
Turnitin: November 1<sup>st</sup> 5 p.m.  
Rewrite: 1 week after essays returned in class (Most likely: Tuesday of Week 11)