Political Science 218J/318J
Japanese Politics and International Relations
Spring, 2012-2013

Course Description
Advanced undergraduate / graduate seminar examining the domestic politics, political economy, and international relations of contemporary Japan. The role of political parties, the bureaucracy, and private actors. Economic development and challenges. Relations with the United States and East Asia. Undergraduate students should enroll in 218J. Graduate students should enroll in 318J.

Course Requirements

In-Class Participation (35%): You should come to class prepared to actively discuss the readings for the session.

Online Participation (15%): Each student is required to make one original post and one reply to the online bulletin board on the coursework website. The original post should demonstrate clear engagement with the readings for the week. The original post is due at 5 p.m. the day before class. The reply is due before the beginning of class and should preferably be posted by Monday night so others have a chance to review the postings before class.

Final Paper (50%): A 20 page research paper (4000-6000 words) related to the class material (Due: June 10).

General Policies
Active participation in class discussions is required – absences must be cleared prior to the session with the instructors. Unexcused absences will result in a half letter grade reduction in the student’s final grade (e.g., A → A-, etc.). Late assignments will be penalized by half a letter grade each day the assignment is late.

Prerequisites
There are no formal prerequisites, though prior coursework in political science is advised.
Readings

Readings will be made available on Coursework.

Overview of Topics

Week 1 (4/2) Introduction / Overview
Week 2 (4/9) Modernization: From the Meiji Restoration to World War II
Week 3 (4/16) The 1955 System
Week 4 (4/23) Rapid Economic Growth
Week 5 (4/30) The Bubble and Financial Crisis
Week 6 (5/7) Political Transformation After the Crisis
Week 7 (5/14) Economic Transformation After the Crisis
Week 8 (5/21) Responding to Globalization
Week 9 (5/28) Energy Policy, Climate Change, and Fukushima
Week 10 (6/4) International Security and Foreign Policy

6/10 Final Paper Due at 5pm

Students with Documented Disabilities:
Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) located within the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). SDRC staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the SDRC as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk, phone (650) 723-1066.
Week 1: Introduction & Overview

Week 2: Modernization: From the Meiji Restoration to World War II


Week 3: The 1955 System


*British Journal of Political Science* 29:335-56.


**Week 4: Rapid Economic Growth**


**Week 5: The Bubble and Financial Crisis**


**Week 6: Political Transformation After the Crisis**


**Week 7: Economic Transformation After the Crisis**


**Week 8: Responding to Globalization**


**Week 9: Energy Policy, Climate Change, and Fukushima**


**Week 10: International Security and Foreign Policy**


6/10: Final Paper Due at 5pm