

Miyazaki International College  
Course Syllabus  
Fall 2018

Course Title (Credits)	POL309-1/ASA384 Politics of Japan
Course Designation for TC	N/A
Content Teacher	
Instructor	Jeong-Pyo Hong, Ph.D.
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Office hours	14:30-16:00 on Tuesday and Thursday
Language Teacher	
Instructor	
E-mail address	
Office/Ext	
Office hours	

Course Description:
<p>This course introduces Japan's political system and political culture. Among the areas covered are the roles of the states, administration and local government, the political parties and interest groups, the policies maintained, and contemporary political issues.</p>
Course Objectives:
<p>This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive yet concise overview of the current politics of Japan after the Meiji Renovation. The content objective of this course is to deal with important lessons about Japanese politics and how the nation's behavior has been influenced by the inescapable demands posed by the political system, by its national long-standing cultural values, and by the perceptions of its political leaders and their definitions of friends and enemies in Japan before and after the Meiji Renovation. In short, in this course, students will study how the politics of Japan has been in the domestic and international contexts as a political system.</p> <p>The language component of this course aims to help students express their knowledge and opinions about the politics of Japan. 1. Develop skills in reading English materials and texts for content meaning and argument. 2. Enhance listening and speaking skills for the expression and comprehension of ideas in English. 3. Promote basic English writing skills, in the composition of paragraphs, short summaries, and longer essays.</p>

Course Schedule:		
Day	Topic	Content/Activities
1	<b>Introduction</b>	Introduction & Presentation assignment
2		Overview on Japanese Politics, and Troika of Female Politicians in Japan
3	<b>Liberal Democratic Party</b>	Abenomics and bad economics by SDP
4		<i>The Ambition of Fukuzawa Yukichi</i>
5		Hawkish Abe won LDP Presidency, and became the Prime Minister
6		<i>Reform, 1857-1863</i>
7		Revision of the Constitution I
8		<i>Revolution, 1863-1871</i>
9		Revision of the Constitution II
10		<i>Construction, 1871-1880</i>
11	<b>Democratic Party and Kibo no To</b>	Noda Cabinet and Khan Cabinet
12		<i>Management, 1880-1893</i>
13		Hatoyama Cabinet: East Asian Community
14		<i>Reorganization, 1894-1924</i>
15		A New Political Power
16		<i>Crisis, 1925-1937</i>
17		No-Nos for Noda: Japan's Top 10 Most Useless PMs
18		<i>Secret of Japan</i>
19	<b>Political System in Japan</b>	Parliamentary System: Multiparty System in Japan
20		<i>Collapse of Japanese Politics</i>
21	<b>The Meiji Renovation</b>	Causes of Meiji Renovation: Consolidation of the Meiji State
22		<i>Ozawa Ichiro and Tanaka Kakuei</i>
23	<b>Political Opposition: 1878-90</b>	Political Party Consolidation: Taisho Democracy-1918-32
24		<i>Abe Shizo and Kishi Nobusuke</i>
25	<b>Greater National Unity</b>	War State: 1932-45 Post-War Reshaping of Japanese Politics-1945-52

26		<i>The Constitution in Danger</i>
27	<b>1955 System</b>	Era of LDP Dominance: 1952-93 <i>Kochikai</i>
28	<b>Shake-up of Japanese Politics: 1993-2000</b>	<i>Heisei Kenkyukai</i> and <i>Seiwa Seisaku Kensyukai</i>
29		Diet Should Establish Real Post-1995 Regime
30		Development of Japan's Politics
	Final Exam	

Required Materials:

Some textbooks will be introduced for the students' reading and presentations. Handouts that will detail these and other assignments for this course also will be provided throughout this term. Copies of all your in-class writings and homework should be kept in a notebook (or a file) and brought to class each day.

**Texts**

1. Richard Sims (2001). *Japanese Political History Since the Meiji Renovation 1868-2000*. New York: Palgrave.
2. Msahiko FUJIWARA (2007). *Dignity of State*. Tokyo: Shinchosha.
3. Kanzou UCHIMURA (2012). *Representative Japanese*. Tokyo: Iwanami.
4. Takahiko SOEJIMA (2010). *Secret of Japan*. Tokyo: PHP.
1. Shinichi KITAOKA (2012). *Collapse of Japanese Politics*. Tokyo: Chuokoron-Shinsha.
2. Eiji ASHITA (2012). *Ozawa Ichiro and Tanaka Kakuei*. Tokyo: Kadokawa Magazines.
3. Ryuho OKAWA (2010) *Iron Rule of Japanese Diplomacy*. Tokyo: H & S Press.
4. Eiji ASHITA (2013). *Abe Shizo and Kishi Nobuske*. Tokyo: Kadokawa Magazines.
5. Takahiro SHIRAKAWA. (2013). *The Constitution in Danger*. Tokyo: Discover.
- Shigeru ISHIBA (2013). *Genuine Political Leadership*. Tokyo: Wanew Books.
6. Hideyuki Kajiwara (2009). *The Four Generations of Hatoyama Family*. Tokyo: Shoudensha.
7. Takami Anzai (2014). *Keidanren*. Tokyo: Shinchosha.
8. Akira Irie (2005). *Diplomacy of Japan*. Tokyo: Chuokoron-Shinsha.
9. Akira Irie (2006). *New Diplomacy of Japan*. Tokyo: Chuokoron-Shinsha.
10. Liberal Democratic Party (2015). *The Figures of the Liberal Democratic Party*. Tokyo: the Advertisement Department of LDP.
11. Wadanabe Hiroshi (2012). *A History of Japanese Political Thought, 1600-1901*. Tokyo: International House of Japan.
12. Junji Banno (2012). *Japan's Modern History, 1857-1937: A New Political Narrative*, London: Routledge

Course Policies (Attendance, etc.):

MIC believes that teaching and learning are reciprocal activities that require regular interaction between students and teachers. Such interaction cannot occur when students are absent from classes and related activities. So, attendance and punctuality are both important requirements in this class. Students are required to attend classes regularly and participate actively. Exceptions can only be made if there are compelling situations due to illness or for other emergencies. In order for an absence to be excused, a letter of explanation in English is required from you and standard form is needed from your doctor. More than four absences will be viewed very seriously.

Class Preparation and Review:

Students are expected to spend at least one hour reviewing and doing homework and one hour preparing for every hour of lesson time.

Grades and Grading Standards:

1. Writing Assignments	20%
2. Dialogue	20%
3. Presentations	30%
4. Quizzes	30%

Methods of Feedback:


Feedback will be given orally to students. Mid-term papers will be checked and returned with comments.

Diploma Policy Objectives:

Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s):

- 1: Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought)
- 2: The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations
- 3: The ability to identify and solve problems
- 4: Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English

Notes:

<p>文部科学省から採択された 大学教育再生加速プログラム</p> 		Advanced	Proficient	Developing	Emerging	No Attempt
Critical Thinking	Ability to Identify & Solve Problems	In insightful comments in class discussions Student shows proven ability to analyze data, gather and assess resources, and disseminate opinions in a scholarly manner.	Able to contribute to class discussions, and to perform a basic analysis of data, gather and assess resources, and express opinions in an adequate manner.	Beginning to visualize the ways in which information can be combined and applied to solving a given problem, but struggles with complex and relationships	Student shows motivation but must learn the concepts and mechanisms that apply to critical thinking, such as information gathering, assessment and synthesis	
	Information Gathering					
	Assessment of Credibility					
Advanced Communication Proficiency	Public Speaking	Speaking is clear, using a broad range of vocabulary and relative jargon. Student uses appropriate social cues and nuance.	Able to create a relevant response when asked to express an opinion or respond to a complicated situation, but pronunciation and grammar can often make responses and explanations unclear to a listener and must be interpreted.	Able to answer questions and give basic information. However, inconsistent pronunciation, intonation and stress may sometimes make their responses difficult to understand or interpret.	Student is unsuccessful or finds it very difficult when attempting to explain an opinion or respond to a complicated scenario. The response may be limited to a single sentence or part of a sentence.	
	Social Skills					
	Professional Skills					
Global Perspectives	Cultural Relevancy	Fully engaged in current events and shows and understanding of social inequalities and cultural differences.	Student is aware of current events and world cultures, but is unable to apply macro-level situations to her/his own life.	Exhibits interest and intrigue in current events and world culture, but has difficulty understanding relevancy.	Student expresses one-sided ideals from an ethnocentric point of view. Completely lacks awareness of world issues or events.	Insufficient effort or evidence of achievement
	Awareness of Current Events & Global Issues					
	Reading	Exhibits fluency/near fluency in speaking and writing. Grammar and reading ability similar to native English speaker. Able to use context clues when faced with unfamiliar vocabulary.	Proficient English ability; relies mainly on familiar vocabulary. Should be encouraged to advance beyond comfort zone.	Adequate English ability; must reference dictionary often	Student has some English ability, but lacks confidence in using and understanding. Very limited vocabulary knowledge, struggles with grammar and pronunciation Unable to form questions	
English Language Ability	Writing					
	Oral Communication					
	Reading	Able to express one's self clearly and succinctly both in writing and orally. Able to use context clues when faced with unfamiliar vocabulary.	Proficient oral and written communication; relies mainly on familiar vocabulary. Should be encouraged to advance beyond comfort zone.	Adequate oral and written communication; tends to have difficulty clearly expressing ideas.	Student shows a lack of confidence in writing, reading, and oral communication. Very limited vocabulary knowledge, struggles with grammar Unable to form questions	
Japanese Language Ability	Writing					
	Oral Communication					