Miyazaki International College

Course Syllabus

(Fall 2019)

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| Course Title ( Credits ) | POL309-1/ASA384 Politics of Japan (**3 credits)** |
| Course Designation for TC | N/A |
| Content Teacher |
| Instructor | Jeong-Pyo Hong, Ph.D |
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| Course Description: |
| 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.This course especially will focus on studying the causes of the longevity of LDP and the ephemeral of the democratic parties and the socialist parties in the struggle for government power in Japanese political culture. |
| Course Objectives: |
| 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.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. |
| Course Schedule |
| Day | Topic | Content/Activities |
| 1 | **Introduction** | Introduction & Presentation assignment |
| 2 |  | Overview on Japanese Politics, and Troika of Female Politicians in Japan |
| 3 | **Liberal Democratic****Party** | Abe secures his historic third term |
| 4 |  | Top agendas for Abe’s next third term |
| 5 |  | Abenomics and bad economics by SDP |
| 6 |  | Hawkish Abe won LDP Presidency, and became the Prime Minister |
| 7 |  | Revision of the Constitution I |
| 8 |  | Revision of the Constitution II |
| 9 | **Democratic Party and Kibo no To** | Noda Cabinet and Khan Cabinet |
| 10 |  | Hatoyama Cabinet: East Asian Community |
| 11 |  | A New Political Power |
| 12 |  | No-Nos for Noda: Japan’s Top 10 Most Useless PMs |
| 13 |  | Limitation of anti-parties in Japan |
| 14 |  | **Mid-term Test** |
| 15 | **Political System in****Japan** | Causes of Meiji Renovation: Consolidation of the *Meiji* State |
| 16 |  | Political Party Consolidation: *Taisho* Democracy-1918-32 |
| 17 |  | War State: 1932-45Post-War Reshaping of Japanese Politics-1945-52 |
| 18 |  | The Occupation |
| 19 | **The 1955 System** | Parliamentary System: Multiparty System in Japan |
| 20 |  | Era of LDP Dominance: 1952-93: *Kochikai* |
| 21 |  | *Heisei Kenkyukai* and *Seiwa Seisaku Kensyukai* |
| 22 |  | The causes of longevity of LDP |
| 23 |  | Political corruption and Political Reform |
| 24 |  | Political Participation |
| 25 |  | Diet Should Establish Real Post-1995 Regime |
| 26 | **Japan and the World** | Japan and the United States |
| 27 |  | Japan and China-Russia Relations |
| 28 |  | Japan and the Third World |
| 29 |  | Japan and Eastern Europe |
| 30 |  | Development of Japan’s Politics |
|  |  | **Final Exam** |
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| 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**Anzai, Takami (2014). *Keidanren*. Tokyo: Shinchosha.ASHITA, Eiji (2013). *Abe Shizo and Kishi Nobuske*. Tokyo: Kadokawa Magazines.Banno, Junji (2012). *Japan’s Modern History, 1857-1937: A New Political Narrativ*e, London: RoutlegeEiji ASHITA (2012). *Ozawa Ichiro and Tanaka Kakuei*. Tokyo: KadokawaMagazines.FUJIWARA, Msahiko (2007). *Dignity of State.* Tokyo: Shinchosha.Hayes, Louis D. (2009). *Introduction to Japanese Politics*. New York: An East Gate Book.Irie, Akira (2005). *Diplomacy of Japan*. Tokyo: Chuokoron-Shinsha.Irie, Akira (2006). *New Diplomacy of Japan*. Tokyo: Chuokoron-Shinsha.ISHIBA, Shigeru (2013). *Genuine Political Leadership.* Tokyo: Wanew Books.Kajiwara, Hideyuki (2009). *The Four Generations of Hatoyama Family*. Tokyo: Shoudensha.KITAOKA, Shinichi (2012). *Collapse of Japanese Politics*. Tokyo: Chuokoron-Shinsha.Liberal Democratic Party (2015). *The Figures of the Liberal Democratic Party*. Tokyo: the Advertisement Department of LDP.OKAWA, Ryuho (2010) *Iron Rule of Japanese Diplomacy*. Tokyo: H & S Press.Sims, Richard (2001).*Japanese Political History Since the Meiji Renovation 1868-2000.* New York: Palgrave.SOEJIMA, Takahiko (2010). *Secret of Japan*. Tokyo: PHP.Takahiro SHIRAKAWA. (2013). *The Constitution in Danger*. Tokyo: Discover.UCHIMURA, Kanzou (2012). *Representative Japanese*. Tokyo: Iwanami.Wadanabe, Hiroshi (2012). *A History of Japanese Political Thought, 1600-1901*. Tokyo: International House of Japan. |
| 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):DP1: Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought)DP2. The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nationsDP3. The ability to identify and solve problems DP4. Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English |
| Notes: |
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