

**POLS 435B: Government and Politics of Japan  
Spring 2005**

Tues 2:00-4:45 p.m.  
Classroom: SH 104

Professor Keiko Hirata  
Office: ST 218  
Telephone: (818) 677-7233  
E-mail: keiko.hirata@csun.edu

Office hours: Tuesday, 5:00-5:50 p.m., Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m., & by appointment

This course will provide an overview of the politics and policies of postwar Japan. Topics covered in the course include party politics, economic policymaking and policies, political participation and democracy, and foreign policy. The course will introduce theoretical approaches to analyze change and continuity in the political economy, society, and culture of Japan. More specifically, the course will focus on political competition among various actors within the state and society in influencing governmental policy. Although no prior knowledge of Japanese politics is required, students are expected to complete all the reading assignments prior to coming to class and keep abreast of current events in Japan.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this course correspond with those of the Political Science Department at CSUN:

I. Professional Interaction and Effective Communication – Students should demonstrate persuasive and rhetorical communication skills for strong oral and written communication in small and large groups.

II. Develop a Global Perspective – Students should demonstrate knowledge and theories relevant to global politics and policies. This includes knowledge of political systems, processes, values and models of politics and patterns of interaction among them. Students should demonstrate an understanding and respect for economic, socio-cultural, political and environmental interaction of global life.

III. Active Citizenship and Civic Engagement – Students should demonstrate a knowledge and awareness of contemporary issues, political institutions, and problems in the community and their historical contexts. Students should demonstrate an understanding of the importance of community involvement and leadership.

IV. Critical Thinking – Students should demonstrate increasingly sophisticated skills in reading primary sources critically. Students should be able to research and evaluate

the models, methods and analyses of others in the field of Political Science, and critically integrate and evaluate others' work.

V. Political Decision Making– Students should demonstrate an in-depth understanding and knowledge of the political institutions through which public policies are formulated, modified, and implemented.

VI. Political Analytical Skills – Students should demonstrate a working knowledge of research designs, hypothesis formulation, measurement of variables, data collection, and analysis.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

Stockwin, J. A. A. 1999. *Governing Japan: Divided Politics in a Major Economy*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Schlesinger, Jacob M. 1999. *Shadow Shoguns: The Rise and Fall of Japan's Postwar Political Machine*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Course Packet (available for purchase at the Northridge Copy and Graphic Center, 9130B, Reseda Blvd. Tel. 818-775-0255)

## **References:**

Stockwin, J. A. A. 2003. *Dictionary of the Modern Politics of Japan*, third edition. London & New York: Routledge Curzon.

Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, Joseph M. Williams. 2003. *The Craft of Research*, second edition. Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press.

Additional reading materials will be provided during the course.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

1. **Research paper statement (5%)**. You are required to submit by **March 1** a short planning statement for your research paper, which must be on a topic related to Japan's politics or policy. This assignment is designed to help you clarify and sort out your thoughts and ideas for your research paper before actually starting to write it. You are required to do library research to write the statement. Please include the following:

- (1) Title: The title of your paper.
- (2) Research Question: Write a research question you will address in your paper. Select one question that you want to answer.
- (3) Abstract: A summary of your paper. Explain what your main argument is (that is, the answer to your research question).
- (4) Organization: Describe how your paper will be organized. An outline is fine.
- (5) Sources: List or describe the reference sources you plan to use.

The entire statement (all five parts) should be about five pages. The paper should be double-spaced, except for the sources, which should be single-spaced.

The instructor will respond to your research statement indicating whether the topic of the paper has been approved. If for any reason you change your paper topic after you submit the research statement, you will need to submit another statement based on your new topic. Do not change your topic right before the research paper deadline. You cannot write a good paper in just a couple of weeks!

2. **Research paper (45%).** You are required to write a 12-plus-page paper (in addition to references, double-spaced). The paper must be on an approved topic related to Japan's politics or policy as described above. The deadline for your final paper is **May 3**.

You are required to turn in both a hard copy AND electronic copy of your paper. The electronic copy should be sent as an email attachment to <keiko.hirata@csun.edu> on the same day the paper is due. Please put the phrase "term paper spring 2005" (without the quotation marks) on the subject line.

For additional guidelines on the research paper, see p. 8.

3. **Final exam (40%).** There will be a take-home final examination. It will consist of essay questions based on the lectures and reading assignments in the second half of the semester. The exam will be handed out on May 17 and must be turned in by **May 26, 4:45 p.m.**

You are required to submit both a hard copy AND electronic copy of your final exam. The electronic copy should be sent as an email attachment to <keiko.hirata@csun.edu> on the same day the exam is due. Put the phrase "final exam spring 2005" (without the quotation marks) on the subject line.

4. **Class participation (10%).** The class participation portion of your grade is based on your performance in class. You are expected to read all materials, attend all lectures, and actively participate in class discussions. You are strongly encouraged to ask questions, raise issues for discussion, and bring up current events relevant to what we are covering in class. Make sure you read all the assigned materials prior to coming to class. Attendance will be taken every time we meet. However, attendance alone will not guarantee a full score class participation. You will be graded not only on the quantity but also on the quality of your participation. If you have an emergency and cannot attend class, write a short statement and hand it to the instructor at either the previous or following class. (Do not send her an e-mail message saying that you cannot come to class. Give her a hard copy of the written statement.)

## **GRADING SYSTEM**

Your course grade will be based on the total points you have gained from the course requirements stated above. The instructor will use a plus/minus grading system as follows:

- A+ 98-100%; A 93-97%; A- 90-92%
- B+ 88-89%; B 83-87%; B- 80-82%
- C+ 78-79%; C 73-77%; C- 70-72%

- D+ 68-69%; D 63-67%; D- 60-62%
- F 0-59%

## CLASS POLICY

**Missed exam deadline:** In principle, no late submissions are accepted. It is your responsibility to observe the deadlines. You should notify the professor before the exam if, for an emergency reason, you cannot submit your exam by the due date. Permission will be given in exceptional cases.

**Late papers:** Your late submission will affect your grade for the paper. If you turn in the paper *one day late*, your grade will be lowered by one-third of a grade point (e.g., A to A-, A- to B+, B+ to B, etc.)

**Plagiarism:** Copying of material from other sources without citation is strictly prohibited. All term papers and final examinations in this course will be submitted to one or more online monitoring sources, which will use statistical techniques to compare your paper, phrase by phrase, with a data base of more than one billion papers, including the contents of online paper mills, previously published works, papers submitted by other students, and the contents of the World Wide Web. Students who have plagiarized any part of an exam or paper will receive an F in the course and will have a report submitted on the case in your academic file. It is extremely easy to catch plagiarism, so please do not harm your academic career by attempting it.

### Political Science Department Policy on Plagiarism

CSUN catalogue defines plagiarism as intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, or work of another as one's own in academic exercise. The Political Science Department does not tolerate plagiarism or academic dishonesty of any kind and will pursue plagiarism cases to the full extent allowed by CSUN rules, including expulsion from the university. At the minimum, based on the discretion of the instructor, students found guilty of plagiarism may receive an "F" in the course and their case may be referred to the appropriate university offices for further administrative action.

**Political Science Department Student Code of Conduct:** Students may not intentionally engage in any sort of behavior that is disruptive to the classroom. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- entering the class late or leaving early;
- engaging in non-class related conversation with classmates;
- receiving or answering cellular phone calls or pages in non-emergencies;
- sleeping in class.

Disruptive behavior will affect students' class participation grade.

**External Reading:** You are expected to keep up with the current events in the region. Read the following, for example:

Asahi Shimbun (<http://www.asahi.com/english/english.html>)

Daily Yomiuri (<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/index-e.htm>)

Mainichi Interactive (<http://www.mainichi-msn.co.jp/>)

Japan Times (<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/>)

Asia Observer (<http://www.asiaobserver.com/>)

BBC News (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/world/asia-pacific/>)

Far Eastern Economic Review (<http://www.feer.com>)

## **OFFICE HOURS AND CONSULTATION**

Please consult with me in person rather than by e-mail to discuss your research papers or other matters. I will be available in my office every Tuesday, 5:00-5:50 p.m. and Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m. If you need to see me on another day, you may call or e-mail me for an appointment.

## **MAIN THEMES OF THE COURSE**

The course will address the following questions:

- (1) Why and how did the “1955 system” remain intact for nearly 40 years?
- (2) Why and how did the 1955 system collapse in 1993?
- (3) How did Japan achieve its economic “miracle”?
- (4) How and why did the “miracle” end?
- (5) What groups have played major roles in Japanese policymaking?
- (6) How has Japan’s civil society evolved in recent decades?
- (7) What diplomatic challenges has Japan faced in the postwar era?

## CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

The schedule is subject to change; students are responsible for observing the schedule whether it remains the same or changes.

Date	Topics of discussion	Assignments
Feb 1	Orientation Overview	
Feb 8	Political Culture Postwar Reforms Video: <i>MacArthur</i> Yoshida Doctrine	Stockwin, Ch 4, 5 (pp. 54-58)  Pyle, Kenneth B. 1996. <i>The Japanese Question: Power and Purpose in a New Era</i> . Washington, D.C.: The AEI Press, pp. 21-40.  Optional: Stockwin, Ch 3
Feb 15	The 1955 System	Schlesinger, Introduction, Part 1
Feb 22	The 1955 System	Schlesinger, Part 2  Stockwin, Ch 5 (pp. 58-69)
Mar 1	Denise of the 1955 System	Schlesinger, Part 3  Stockwin, Ch 6  <b>Research Paper Statement Due</b>
Mar 8	Denise of the 1955 System	Schlesinger, Part 4  Optional: Noble, Gregory. 1994. "Japan in 1993: Humpty Dumpty Had a Great Fall." <i>Asian Survey</i> 34(1): 19-29.
Mar 15	Party Politics	Stockwin, Ch 9  Optional: Stockwin, Ch 8
Mar 29	Explaining the Economic "Miracle"  Video: <i>Asia Rising</i>	Katz, Richard. 1998. <i>Japan, The System that Soured: The Rise and Fall of the Japanese Economic Miracle</i> . Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, pp. 289-317.
Apr 5	Explaining the "Economic Miracle"	Johnson, Chalmers. 1982. <i>MITI and the Japanese Miracle, The Growth of Industrial Policy, 1925-1975</i> . Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 3-34, 305-342.

Apr 12	Economic “Bubble” and Crisis	<p>Schoppa, Leonard. 2001. “Japan, the Reluctant Reformer.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 80(5): 76-90.</p> <p>Pempel, T. J. 1997. “Regime Shift: Japanese Politics in a Changing World Economy.” <i>Journal of Japanese Studies</i> 23(2): pp. 333-361.</p> <p>Optional: Overholt, William. 2002. “Japan’s Economy, at War with Itself.” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 81(1): 134-147.</p>
Apr 19	Who Governs?: Bureaucrats and Politicians	<p>van Wolferen, Karel. 1990. <i>The Enigma of Japanese Power: People and Politics in a Stateless Nation</i>. New York: Vintage Books, pp. 25-49.</p> <p>Curtis, Gerald L. 2002. “Politicians and Bureaucrats: What’s Wrong and What’s to be Done.” In <i>Policymaking in Japan: Defining the Role of Politicians</i>, ed. Gerald L. Curtis. Tokyo: Japan Center for International Exchange, pp. 1-17.</p> <p>Stockwin, Ch 7</p> <p>Optional: Muramatsu, Michio and Ellis Krauss. 1987. “The Conservative Policy Line and the Development of Patterned Pluralism.” In <i>The Political Economy of Japan: The Domestic Transformation</i>, ed. Kozo Yamamura and Yasukichi Yasuba. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, pp. 516-554.</p> <p>van Wolferen, Karel. 1990. <i>The Enigma of Japanese Power: People and Politics in a Stateless Nation</i>. New York: Vintage Books, pp. 1-24.</p>
Apr 26	Civil Society & Democracy	<p>Pharr, Susan. 2003. “Conclusion: Targeting by an Activist State: Japan as a Civil Society Model.” In <i>The State of Civil Society in Japan</i>, eds. Frank J. Schwartz and Susan J. Pharr. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 316-336.</p> <p>Hirata, Keiko. 2004. “Civil Society and Japan’s Dysfunctional Democracy.” <i>Journal of Developing Societies</i> 20 (1-2): 107-123.</p> <p>Pekkanen, Robert. 2003. “Molding Japanese Civil Society: State-Structured Incentives and the Patterning of Civil Society.” In <i>The State of Civil Society in Japan</i>, eds. Frank J. Schwartz and Susan J. Pharr. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,</p>

		pp. 116-134.
May 3	Foreign Policy: Overview	<p>Stockwin, Ch 12</p> <p>Hirata, Keiko. 1998. "Japan as a Reactive State? Analyzing Japan's Relations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam." <i>Japanese Studies</i> (18) 2: 135-152.</p> <p>Optional: Funabashi, Yoichi. 1998. "Tokyo's Depression Diplomacy." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 77 (6): 26-36.</p> <p><b>Research Paper Due</b></p>
May 10	Foreign Policy: US-Japan Relations; Japan's Role in Asia	<p>Wan, Ming. 2001. <i>Japan between Asia and the West: Economic Power and Strategic Balance</i>. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, pp. 22-70.</p> <p>Midford, Paul. 2003. "Japan's Response to Terror: Dispatching the SDF to the Arabian Sea." <i>Asian Survey</i> 43 (2): 329-351.</p> <p>Optional: Arase, David. 2003. "Sino-Japanese Relations in Transition." In <i>The Challenge of Change: East Asia in the New Millennium</i>, ed. David Arase. Berkeley: University of California Berkeley Institute of East Asian Studies, pp. 235-252.</p>
May 17	Domestic Political Issues	Stockwin, Ch 10, 11,13
May 26		<b>Final Exam Due</b>

## Research Paper Guidelines

Length and format: The paper should be a minimum of 12 pages, exclusive of references, double spaced, without extra spacing between paragraphs (but do indent paragraphs). The references are in addition to the 12 pages and should be single spaced. Use 12-pt., Times or Times New Roman font, 1 to 1.25" margins. Do not forget to include page numbers.

Deadline: **May 3**. No extensions unless you have an emergency situation (e.g., illness).

Basic tips for writing a good political science paper:

1. It is crucial to **start early** to write a good research paper. If you cannot find material necessary for your paper at our library, you'll need to get it through interlibrary loan. Ordering through interlibrary loan usually takes time, so you need to do library research as soon as possible. Otherwise, you may not get the material in time.
2. In the introduction, do not include highly-detailed information. At the same time, you should not be so vague as to confuse the reader. The introduction serves to tell the reader what to expect. State your thesis (the main claim you will make in the paper) and explain the purpose of your research paper. Also briefly explain the major points you plan to cover in the paper.
3. **Do not summarize** your sources but use them as materials to **build your own arguments**. Draw facts from books, articles, interviews, etc. to support your claim.
4. Remember **the thesis and the supporting evidence work in tandem**. Even if your paper has an interesting thesis, that will be of little use unless you provide enough evidence to validate the thesis.
5. Some student writers provide a lot of facts or data but fail to assert a clear thesis. Your paper will not be graded based on solely the quantity of evidence you provide. You need to synthesize information and present a well-organized claim.
6. Be concise and **get to the point. Weed out irrelevant information**. No matter how profound and interesting the information is, if it does not relate to and support the thesis you've chosen, don't include it in your paper.
7. Consider possible counterarguments to your claim or alternatives to your position. Defend your position and explain why your argument is stronger.
8. **Plagiarism is strictly prohibited**. Cite whatever sources of information you have used in the main text (or in the footnotes/endnotes).
9. **Do not overuse quotations**. If you want to quote, do so only sparingly.
10. Do not rely on just a few sources of information. Diversify your sources as much as possible.

11. Use a standard form of referencing. You may use any standard or generally accepted citation system as long as you use it correctly and consistently.
12. **Revise your paper many times.** Make sure your argument is clearly presented and that it is supported by enough evidence. Also check whether the paper is well organized and properly cited.

A good paper has a clearly and narrowly defined thesis and brings evidence and examples to support the thesis. The paper introduces the thesis in the beginning of the paper. Once the thesis is introduced, the rest of the paper will be spent demonstrating your supporting material and its relation to the thesis. Also, the paper needs to be clearly written, coherently organized, and properly cited.

For further suggestions on writing a research paper, see the following excellent sources:

Eric Mayer, "Social Science Writing Guide." Available at  
<<http://emayzine.com/lectures/writing.htm>>.

Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. 2003. *The Craft of Research*, second edition. Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press.

You should also consult the staff at the Learning Resource Center's Writing Center (tel. 677-2033, office SB 408). It is recommended that you make an appointment a week in advance. Walk-in appointments are available on a limited basis.