

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Fall 2025	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year
Course Number	PSCI/JPNA355		
Course Title	Japanese Politics and Diplomacy		
Prerequisites	PSCI230 International Relations OR PSCI220 Comparative Politics		
Course Instructor	HARAGUCHI Koji	Year Available (Grade Level)	2
Subject Area	Political Science	Number of Credits	3
Class Style	Lecture	Language of instruction	

(NOTE 1) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course

Course Description	<p>Cap (registrant capacity): 20 students</p> <p>The first 70% of this course is a (i) comprehensive examination of the significant institutions of Japanese government and politics with special emphasis on the national level and the important contemporary public policies. Japanese government and politics will also be discussed within the (ii) frameworks of Japanese history and culture. The final 30% is dedicated to an (iii) examination of Japanese international relations with the nations of East Asia and (iv) other significant trade and security partners such as the United States and the EU.</p>
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	Upon the feedback from the students, the voters will have the time for Q&A with the candidates after they present party platforms in the election simulation.
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	Not applicable
Learning Goals	<p>At the end of this course, the students will understand (i) the development and operation of Japan's political institutions and policies in the Post-War era, (ii) the inter-dynamics of Japan's political party system, elections, and parliament, (iii) the contemporary security issues that impact Japan in its relations with China, Russia and South and North Korea, (iv) the significance of the Japan-United States Security Treaty, as well as the economic ties between them, (v), be able to develop and express, in both oral and written form, their own opinion on, analysis of, and possible solutions for major issues of contemporary Japanese politics and government based on credible sources of information and by applying the theories, models, and concepts of comparative and international politics (vi) and develop intercultural understanding and global thinking skills by identifying both common and unique features of Japanese politics and government in comparison with other countries and by collaborating with the classmates with diverse background</p>

iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP2/DP3/DP4
---------------------	-----------------

## iCLA Diploma Policy

(DP1) To Value Knowledge – Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge

(DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World – Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world

(DP3) To Believe in Collaboration – Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams

(DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility – Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	Problem-Based Learning/Discussion, Debate/Group Work/Presentation				
More details/supplemental information on Active Learning Methods	The course requirements include class discussion on reading assignments, an election simulation by group, and an oral presentation on the research paper.				
Use of ICT	The course will use a learning management system, UNIPA, to receive course materials, submit assignments, view scores of and comments on submitted assignments, contact the instructors and other students, engage in group work, view the attendance records, and more. To ensure access to course materials and the full functions of UNIPA students should use a laptop, or tablet computer, not a smartphone. The use of electronic devices may be restricted in case the instructor finds that the students are not engaging in class.				
Contents of class preparation and review	Outside class sessions, the students are required to finish reading assignments, submit written answers to discussion questions, prepare for the simulation with other students, prepare for the oral presentation of research, and write a research paper. After submission of the research proposal, the student will have an individual meeting with the instructor to receive feedback and discuss the plan to complete the research paper.	Hours expected to be spent preparing for class (hours per week)	3 hours	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week)	2 hours
Feedback Methods	Grading and feedback on assignments will be primarily done on UNIPA. Upon request, the instructor will be available for additional comments and discussion through e-mail exchanges or during regular office hours. Please make an appointment for consultation outside office hours.				

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Class discussions or quizzes	30%	Discussions will be based on short written answers to questions about reading assignments.
Simulation	30%	The students will play the roles of candidates by turns in election games.
Research presentation and paper	40%	The students will make oral presentations and write papers on the topic of their choices.

Required Textbook(s)	Gaunder, A. (2023) Japanese Politics and Government, 2nd ed. (New York: Routledge). The book costs approximately 7000 yen at Amazon.
Other Reading Materials/URL	(Recommended and reference books) Gaunder ed., (2015) The Routledge Handbook of Japanese Politics. (New York: Routledge). # indicated as "RHJP" in Class Schedule below Hayes, L. (2018) Introduction to Japanese Politics, 5th ed. (New York: Routledge). Pekkanen, R and Pekkanen, S. (2022), Oxford Handbook of Japanese Politics. (New York: Oxford University Press). # indicated as "OHJP" in Class Schedule below Stockwin, J. A. A. (2003). Dictionary of the modern politics of Japan. Routledge Stockwin, J. A. A., & Ampiah, K. (2017). Rethinking Japan: the politics of contested nationalism. (Lexington Books). * Both required and recommended books will be reserved in the Course Reserve Section (貸出禁止図書) in the YGU Library. Because of the dynamic nature of the course subject, additional or alternative academic and magazine articles and book chapters will be assigned to fit the times of the course and be available on UNIPA

Plagiarism Policy	The course follows the Plagiarism Guidelines of iCLA. "Plagiarism is the unauthorized duplication or reproduction of another author's reports, academic papers, or other published works, when represented as one's own original work without reference to the source..... At iCLA, plagiarism is regarded as a dishonest practice, the results of which are unworthy of evaluation. Whether intentional or unintentional, acts of plagiarism lead to strict punishments equivalent to those given to students who are found guilty of dishonest practices during examinations or any other forms of evaluated work." For more details, please consult the section of Plagiarism Guidelines in the Student Handbook. The use of artificial intelligence tools that violates the Plagiarism Guidelines is prohibited.
Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	*The course schedule may be readjusted as the semester proceeds.  *The use of electronic devices may be restricted in case the instructor finds that the students are not engaging in class. *Class attendance is mandatory. The absence from class discussions, research presentation, election simulation, and other in-class assignments will have negative impacts on your course grade and make-up opportunities for missed assignment will not be offered, unless it is an excused absence.

(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	Introduction: Why do you study Japanese politics and diplomacy? Gauder, Chapter 1 O' Neil, P. & Fields, K. (2024) 6. Japan from Cases in Comparative Politics in Cases in Comparative Politics Stockwin (2003) "Theories of Japanese Politics" from Dictionary of the modern politics of Japan. Routledge Curzon.  *All students considering taking the course are required to attend the first session.
Class 2	Historical Backgrounds: From Meiji Restoration to World War II Gauder, Chapter 2 Hayes, Chapter 1
Class 3	Historical Backgrounds: The Cold War and after Gauder, Chapter 3 Hayes, Chapter 2
Class 4	The Constitution of Japan: Should Japan revise its constitution? National Diet Library "Birth of the Constitution of Japan" McElwain, K. (2022). 2. The Japanese Constitution from OHJP
Class 5	The Constitution of Japan: Should Japan revise its constitution? Stockwin & Ampiah (2017) Revising and Reinterpreting the 1947 Constitution in Rethinking Japan
Class 6	Political culture and society of Japan: How unique is Japanese political culture in comparison with other democracies? Maeda, Y (2022) The Effects of Changing Political Contexts on Public Opinion in Japan, 1945-2020 (OHJP) Ogawa, A. (2022) Civil Society in Japan (OHJP) Fahey, R et.al. (2022) Populism in Japan (OHJP)
Class 7	Political Participation: Gauder, Chapter 6 Hayes, Chapter 7  #Research Proposal submission

Class 8	<p>Political Participation: How to promote political participation among women and the youth?</p> <p>Martin, S. (2015). "The Influence of voters" (RHJP)</p> <p>Tanaka, A. and Martin, S. (2003) The new independent voter and the evolving Japanese party system Asian Perspective Asian Perspective 27 (3), 21-51</p> <p>Hoffman, M. (2014). Concern for Japan's democratic process. Japan Times</p>
Class 9	<p>Political Parties and Interest Groups: Why has the LDP dominated Japanese politics since 1955?</p> <p>Gaunder, Chapter 5 &amp; 10.</p> <p>Reed, S. (2015) "The Liberal Democratic Party" (RHJP)</p>
Class 10	<p>Political Parties and Interest Groups: Why has the LDP dominated Japanese politics since 1955?</p> <p>Stockwin &amp; Ampiah (2017) The Opposition in Power, September 2009 to December 2012</p> <p>MacLachlan, P. and Shimizu, K. (2022) The Farm Lobby and Agricultural Policy in Japan (OHJP)</p>
Class 11	Political Simulation 1
Class 12	<p>Legislative brunch: The Diet</p> <p>The House of Representatives, Japan "The National Diet of Japan"</p> <p>Masuyama, M. (2022) The Japanese Diet: Parliamentary Groups and Lawmaking (OHJP)</p>
Class 13	<p>Executive Brunch: Prime Minister and the Cabinet</p> <p>Gaunder Chapters 9 &amp; 11</p> <p>Stockwin &amp; Ampiah (2017) Abe Takes Charge: From December 2012 from</p> <p>Shinoda, T. (2015). Prime Ministerial Leadership (RHJP)</p>
Class 14	Political Simulation 2
Class 15	Political Simulation 3
Class 16	<p>Executive Brunch: Bureaucracy</p> <p>Stockwin (2008) "Who runs Japan: Politicians, Bureaucrats or Big Business?" from Governing Japan</p> <p>Vogel, S. (2022). The Rise and Fall of the Japanese Bureaucracy (OHJP)</p>
Class 17	<p>Judicial Brunch: Supreme Court</p> <p>Ramseyer, J (2022) The Japanese Judiciary (OHJP)</p>

Class 18	Economic Policy: Economic Miracle, Lost Decades, and Abenomics Gauder, Chapter 7 & 8 Noble G. (2022) METI's Miraculous Comeback and the Uncertain Future of Japanese Industrial Policy (OHJP)
Class 19	Economic Policy: Economic Miracle, Lost Decades, and Abenomics Stockwin & Ampiah (2017) Abenomics in Rethinking Japan: Chiavacci D. (2022) Social Inequality in Japan (OHJP)
Class 20	Social Policy: Aging society, health care, and gender issues Estévez-Abe, M. (2022) Social Welfare Policy in Japan (OHJP) Shoppa, L. (2015) "Policies for an aging/ low fertility society" (RHJP) Steel, G. & Martin, S. (2022) Gender and Politics in Japan (OHJP)
Class 21	Social Policy: Immigration and Refugee issue Kingdon (2019) Demographic dilemma, women, and immigration from Critical Issues in Contemporary Japan Strausz (2022) Immigration and Democracy in Japan (OHJP)
Class 22	Environmental Policy Larm, P. (2015) Japan's Environmental Politics and Change: Local, National and Global (RHJP) Kim R. (2022) Japan and the Environment (OHJP)
Class 23	Defense Policy: Will Japan remilitarize? Hughes, C (2022). Remilitarization in Japan (OHJP) Oros, A (2017) Japan's Security Renaissance. Columbia University Press (excerpts)
Class 24	Research presentations
Class 25	Research presentations
Class 26	Foreign Policy 1: Japanese U.S. relations Gauder, Chapter 12. Pyle, K. (2018). "Japan In the Twilight of the American Century" from Japan in the American Century Krauss, E. (2022) Japan-US Relations: The Most Important Bilateral Relationship in the World (OHJP)
Class 27	Foreign Policy 2: Japan and its neighbors Wan, M (2022). Japan-China Relations: Politics of Great Powers and Great Power Politics (OHJP) Yuan, J. (2018) Stuck over the barren rocks: The Diaoyu/ Senkaku Islands dispute and Sino-Japanese Relations from Tan, A. ed. Security and Conflict in East Asia

Class 28	<p>Foreign Policy 3: Japan and its neighbors</p> <p>Sakaki, A. (2022) The Japan-South Korea Rift: “Inside” and “Outside” Pressures on Relations (OHJP)</p> <p>Stockwin &amp; Ampiah (2017) Japan and Its Neighbors</p> <p>Green (2022). The Indo-Pacific in Line of Advantage: Japan’s Grand Strategy in the Era of Abe Shinzo</p>
Class 29	<p>Foreign Policy 4: Japan and Russia</p> <p>O’ Shea, P &amp; Maslow, S. (2024) Rethinking change in Japan’s security policy: punctuated equilibrium theory and Japan’s response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Policy Studies Vol. 45</p> <p>Bukh, A. (2022) Japan-Russia Relations (OHJP)</p>
Class 30	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Kishida, F. (2023) The Future of the Indo-Pacific</p> <p>Michishita (2022) Japan’s Grand Strategy for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific (OHJP)</p> <p>#Resarch Paper submission</p>