OBJECTIVES AND ORGANIZATION:

This subject is designed for upper level undergraduates and graduate students as an introduction to politics and the policy process in modern Japan. The semester is divided into two parts. After a two-week general introduction to Japan and to the dominant approaches to the study of Japanese history, politics and society, we will begin exploring five aspects of Japanese politics: (1) PARTY POLITICS, (2) ELECTORAL POLITICS, (3) INTEREST GROUP POLITICS, and (4) BUREAUCRATIC POLITICS. The second part of the semester focuses on public policy, divided into seven major policy areas: (1) SOCIAL POLICY, (2) FOREIGN POLICY, (3) DEFENSE POLICY, (4) ENERGY POLICY, (5) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY, (6) INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND (7) TRADE POLICY. We will try to understand the ways in which the actors and institutions identified in the first part of the semester affect the policy process across a variety of issue areas.

REQUIREMENTS:

Undergraduates are required to write two essays: 1) one short (five-seven page) paper on an issue of your own choice, chosen from among the weekly discussion topics and 2) one book report (also five-seven pages) on a book chosen from those listed on the last pages of this syllabus. (Books not on this list require the permission of the instructor.) There will also be a midterm and a final exam for the undergraduates. Special discussion sessions for undergrads are integrated into this syllabus.

Graduate students are responsible for one classroom presentation and two medium length synthetic papers (ten-fifteen pages). One paper should address Japanese politics and the other public policy. The paper assignments for both graduate students and undergraduates are attached. Reading, attendance and participation are required of all students.
READINGS

Six paperback texts are available for purchase from the Tech Coop:


An asterisk (*) designates reading assigned only to graduate students. All readings will be on reserve at the Dewey Library (E53), either in whole books or in 3-ring course binder. Most of the smaller, non-book readings are also on the Stellar class website at http://stellar.mit.edu/S/course/17/sp05/17.537/ There is no Class Notes to purchase.
[HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION]

2 February             POLITICS AND POLICY IN CONTEMPORARY JAPAN

On Stellar and in course binder on reserve at Dewey.


7 February             THE "MODERNIZATION" OF JAPAN


9 February             FROM TAISHO TO SHOWA


Kosaka, M., "The Showa Era," Daedalus (Summer 1990), pp. 27-48 On Stellar and in course binder on reserve at Dewey

Gluck C., "The Idea of Showa," Daedalus (Summer 1990) pp. 1-26 On Stellar and in course binder on reserve at Dewey

*Johnson, C. MITI and the Japanese Miracle, Chapters 1-3 On reserve at Dewey.

14 February  TRANSWAR POLITICAL HISTORY


*Johnson, C. MITI and the Japanese Miracle, Chapters 5 & 6 On reserve at Dewey.


16 February  JAPANESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Reed, Steven. Making Common Sense of Japan, Chapter 1. Book at Coop and on reserve at Dewey


22 February  JAPAN INCORPORATED [?] (NOTE THIS IS A TUESDAY)

Reed, Steven. Making Common Sense of Japan, Chapter 5 Book at Coop and on reserve at Dewey


I. Party Politics

23 February  THE PARTY SYSTEM AFTER 1993

On Stellar and in course binder on reserve at Dewey

Book at Coop and on reserve at Dewey

Book at Coop and on reserve at Dewey

28 February  THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Book at Coop and on reserve at Dewey

On Stellar and in course binder on reserve at Dewey

On reserve at Dewey

2 March  THE DIET

On Stellar and in course binder on reserve at Dewey

On reserve at Dewey

Krauss, Ellis. "Conflict in the Diet...” Chapter 10 in Krauss et al. (eds.). Conflict in Japan  
On Stellar and in course binder on reserve at Dewey
II. Electoral Politics

7 March

THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Chapter Four. Book at Coop and on reserve at Dewey


9 March

VOTER MOBILIZATION AND VOTING BEHAVIOR
[[ FIRST UNDERGRADUATE PAPER DUE ]] 


Also read the following chapters in Flanagan, Scott C. et al. (eds.). The Japanese Voter (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991: On reserve at Dewey

Chapter 1 B. Richardson, "Japanese Voting Behavior in Comparative Perspective.”
Chapter 4 S. Flanagan, "Mechanisms of Social Network Influence in Japanese Voting Behavior”

14 March

UNDERGRADUATE REVIEW SESSION

16 March

MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS

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21-25 MARCH

SPRING BREAK

NO CLASSES

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III. Civil Society and Interest Group Politics

28 March CIVIL SOCIETY


30 March ORGANIZED LABOR

Garon, S. and M. Mochizuki, "Negotiating Social Contracts," Chapter 6 in Gordon (ed.). Postwar Japan as History Book at Coop and on reserve at Dewey


*Tsujinaka, Y. "Rengō and Its Osmotic Networks," in Allinson and Sone (eds.). Political Dynamics in Contemporary Japan On reserve at Dewey

4 April THE ZAIKAI


IV. Bureaucratic Politics

6 April THE BUREAUCRACY

[[FIRST GRADUATE PAPER DUE]]


11 April THE BUDGET PROCESS


[PUBLIC POLICY]

13 April  SOCIAL POLICY


Upham, F.  Law and Social Change in Postwar Japan.  (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1987), Chapters 2-4  On reserve at Dewey


18 April  PATRIOTS’ DAY - NO CLASS

20 April  DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY  [SECOND UNDERGRADUATE PAPER DUE]


25 April  ENERGY POLICY

Samuels, R.J. The Business of the Japanese State (1987) Chapters 3-6 (select two) and Chapter 7  
On reserve at Dewey


27 April  SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Freeman, Christopher. Technology Policy and Economic Performance: Lessons from Japan. (London: Pinter, 1987), Chapters 2 & 3  On reserve at Dewey


2 May  INDUSTRIAL POLICY


4 May

JAPAN IN THE POST-COLD WAR WORLD

[[SECOND GRADUATE PAPER DUE]]


9 May

DEBATE: “CHANGE AT LAST?” OR “CHANGE AT LEAST?”

No readings: Students will be assigned to one of two teams: affirmative and negative on the general proposition: “Japan is changing.”

11 May

UNDERGRADUATE MEETING - NO READINGS
ASSIGNMENTS

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PAPERS (GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE) ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON THE DATE INDICATED. LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED ONLY WITH THE INSTRUCTOR’S APPROVAL, AND GRADES WILL REFLECT THE TIMELINESS OF SUBMISSION.

IMPORTANT: DO NOT PRINT YOUR NAME ON THE COVER OF THE PAPER. WRITE IT ON THE BACK OF THE LAST PAGE.

FIRST UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER ASSIGNMENT
Due: 9 March

Choose one book from the list attached to the syllabus. In 5-7 pages summarize the author's main thesis and identify the major issues associated with this topic. Criticize the author's approach if appropriate.

SECOND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER ASSIGNMENT
Due: 20 April

Write a short 5-7 page essay on one group of readings from this syllabus. Read the * readings if listed as well as at least three readings footnoted in the assignments. What do the authors say? Why is the subject important? What do they omit? Are there better readings to assign?

FIRST GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER ASSIGNMENT
Due: 6 April

Review the literature on Japanese politics and write a clear, concise, thoughtful essay (10-15 pages) identifying the central themes, models and approaches. What questions are not fully addressed in the literature? What sort of approach would be more useful? How well have Japan specialists used political science theories? Should they have better anticipated the events of 1993? Which ones anticipated these events best?

SECOND GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER ASSIGNMENT
Due: 4 May

Write a creative 10-15 page essay on the subject: "The X Policy Process in Japan." (X = the policy area of your choice linked to your classroom presentation.) How do the actors and institutions identified in the first half of this syllabus interact to make policy in this area? Is there a useful model to explain these interactions? Is there a single policy process in Japan? How important is conflict? How widespread is consensus? Has this policy process changed since 1993?
BOOKS FOR UNDERGRADUATE BOOK REPORT

HISTORY:


**INDUSTRY AND ECONOMY:**


**POLITICS AND PUBLIC POLICY:**


**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:**


**SOCIETY:**


The main problems of political socialization of Japanese youth are studied in the paper. According to the author's point of view, participation in the election process, youth movements, and a growing interest in international issues are the principal trends and the main indicators of Japanese youth's political activity and political socialization of young people in contemporary Japanese society. Political socialization is the transmission of political culture to new generations of citizens in a given society and it includes such activities as voting campaigns, attending meetings, joining polit...