Instructor: Professor Ethan Scheiner
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Phone (530) 207-3205
***More likely to reach me by email than by phone
Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-4pm
http://polisci.ucdavis.edu/people/scheiner/escheiner/office-hours.html

TAs:
Gento Kato: gkato@ucdavis.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:30-5:30pm in Kerr 661

Amanda Stickelman: akstickelman@ucdavis.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 12-2 in Kerr 661


Course Summary: This course is designed to give students a solid background in the workings of Japanese politics. The class is divided into two time periods: (1) 1955-1990 and (2) the recent period of very rapid change (1990-present).

The course will have a lecture format, but students are expected to come to class having done the reading and prepared to answer questions in class based on the reading and discuss the course material. To facilitate this, please make a simple (but dark ink/big letters) name tag that you put in front of you in every class session.
Please Note:

• I am happy to answer questions by email about the substance of course material (e.g., why are there two parties often in a single-member district electoral system?).
  o But if you want to use email to ask questions about the course logistics (e.g., information about assignments or where to go for an exam), please contact your TA.

• Note that all references to “course website” refer to my faculty website – not Smartsite.
• All Power Point slides, assignments, grades, email archive, and online reading will be posted at Smartsite.

• In Smartsite, Power Point slides are listed with a lecture/class number and the date – these match the lecture/class number and date of the class listed in the syllabus.
  o If I don’t lecture on a day (e.g., on exam days), there will be no Power Point slides that go with that day’s lecture number and date.
• For additional class policies, please see the Course Expectations page: http://polisci.ucdavis.edu/people/scheiner/escheiner/courses/Course%20Expectations.pdf

Required Texts:

  o This should be on (2-hour) reserve at Shields Library.

• See Smartsite for information on most other reading.

• In a small number of cases, the online reading will require you to be connected to the library system. See the following for information on how to connect when you are off campus. http://lib.ucdavis.edu/ul/services/connect/ If you need assistance on this, please see university library staff or a course TA.

• Videos: You will be expected to remember the main points from the videos that we show in class – although you don’t need to know all the details.
• All reading listed for the course is required, unless otherwise noted.
Assignments/Grades:
Students will be evaluated according to the following:

(1) Participation in class (10%).
   • Very active and regular participation (asking questions and especially being involved in discussion) will lead to a strong participation grade.
   • However, short of substantial and regular participation (this includes not missing class), your participation grade will simply be equal to the average of all your other grades in the class. (E.g., if you have a combined score of 80% on your other assignments, your participation grade will also be 80%.
   • Actions such as TEXTING, USING THE INTERNET/EMAILING (ETC.) IN CLASS, in-class sleeping, chatting, horsing around during class, cell phone use, reading the newspaper, missing class, and regularly arriving late or leaving early will lead to a low participation grade.
      o If it appears that students are surfing/viewing the internet/emailing (etc.) in class, I may ban the use of laptops/smartphones/etc. in the classroom.
      o I will give a 0 for participation to any student that I see texting in class. I am unlikely to give you any warning on this.
      o Participation that indicates an understanding of the reading is particularly encouraged. (If in the course of your participation it becomes clear that you have not been doing the reading, you will not get the full 100% for your participation grade.)
         o However, no need to let the instructors know when you are going to miss class. (In fact, please don’t email us to let us know unless it is really, really important.)
         o Attendance in lecture is not mandatory, but if you miss a number of class sessions (for any reason), your participation grade will be no higher than your average on all of the other class assignments.
         o If you miss class and want to learn what material was covered, you will need to get notes or find out what was covered from another student in the class (and not from the instructors). You are also welcome to record the class lecture. However, as with any class, the instructors will be happy to answer any specific questions about the material.
   • Actions that ignore the “Course Behavior and Expectations” may lead to a lowered Participation grade.

(2) In-class midterm based on readings and lectures to that point (40%) – Class #10 (April 27).
   • Please bring two 39 cent blue books.
   • I will post a study guide at Smartsite and my course webpage by the end of the day of Lecture 7.

(3) Take-home essay, based only on assigned class reading and lectures (10%) – due at Smartsite (at the “POL148B Essay” prompt under the “Assignments” tab) by 3pm on the day of Class #18 (5/25). Information on the essay will be available at the
“Assignments” tab at Smartsite. I will post the question by the end of the day after Class #14.

- You may turn the paper in late if your TA approves an extension by end of Class #17 or if you have documentation (e.g., doctor’s note).
- Any late paper that has not been given an extension or has no documentation will lose 10 percentage points per day. (Note that we will not prorate points off. 1 second late is equal to 1 day late.)

(4) In-class, **cumulative final exam** (but with greater emphasis on the material since the midterm), based on reading and lectures (40% of grade) – **Tuesday, June 7, 6-8pm in our regular classroom.**

- Be sure to bring two (2) 39 cent blank blue books to the final.
- You know the date and time of the final well in advance. Short of a serious personal emergency (serious illness, death in the family, military service – for all these things, you must provide documentation) or religious observance (in which case you must let me know at the start of the quarter), I will not offer alternative final exam dates.
- I will post a study guide at Smartsite and my course webpage in the period between Classes #16 & 17.

- For in-class exams, you will turn in your blue books at the start of the exam period and then be given new ones. Blue books with pages torn out of them will not be accepted.

(5) **Test on course expectations:** If it becomes clear that students are ignoring the course expectations and/or syllabus, I reserve the right to give a test that measures students’ knowledge/awareness of the course expectations/syllabus. This test will not raise any student’s score in the class, but it may lower your lecture participation grade.

Numerical grades translate into letter grades as follows:

- 100 = A+
- 93.6-99.9 = A
- 90-93.5 = A-
- 86.6-89.9 = B+
- 83.6-86.5 = B
- 80 – 83.5 = B-
- Etc.

- The translation of scores to letter grades is all set mathematically. I will not respond to requests to have me change your grade above what your score merits according to the above scale.

- For additional information on grading or how to have your assignment regraded, please see my **Regrading Policy:**

Class Dates, Topics and Assignments

***The Instructor Reserves the Right to Change the Assignments as Circumstances Require***

**Changes will be mentioned in class, through email, and placed on the syllabus**

The reading listed for a given class session is the reading you should do prior to that day.

ASSIGNMENT FOR EVERY DAY: CHECK YOUR UCD EMAIL EVERY DAY SO THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE ANY UPDATES TO THE COURSE.

1. 3/28 (Monday): Introduction

- Please bring a dark/bold/big name tag to put on your desk for the first few weeks.
- Prior to class, please read over the syllabus and course expectations.
- I also strongly recommend that you read the following. This book represents my learning philosophy, and I urge you to read it and take the ideas within it seriously:
  - “The Mindsets” (Ch1, pp. 3-14), “Inside the Mindsets” (Ch2, pp. 15-44, 52-54), and p. 245 Diagram. This chapter is from: Dweck, Carol S. 2006. Mindset: The New Psychology of Success. New York: Balantine Books.

2. 3/30 (Wednesday): History Prior to the 1950s

- Scheiner Japan Summary, pp. 151-165.
3. 4/4 (Monday): Political-Economy I
   • Gordon, Modern History of Japan, pp. 245-290.
   • http://www.economist.com/node/666393
   • Video in class: Will watch first 27 minutes (out of 57 minutes total) of video, “Inside Japan, Inc.” (from about 1993 - not available at Shields)

4. 4/6 (Wednesday): Political-Economy II
   • Scheiner Japan Summary, pp. 173-175, 180-187.
   • Video in class: Will finish “Inside Japan, Inc.” (from about 1993 - not available at Shields)

5. 4/11 (Monday): Social Problems, Outsiders, & Security
   • Scheiner Japan Summary, pp. 175-180.

6. 4/13 (Wednesday): Policymaking
7. 4/18 (Monday): Basics of the 1955 Party System
   • Scheiner Japan Summary, pp. 165-171.
   • Scheiner, Chapter 2, Democracy Without Competition in Japan.
   • Video in class: Will watch “Running and Running for Mayor” (1986 video, 27 minutes - not available at Shields)
   • Study guide for the midterm will go online by end of day TODAY

8. 4/20 (Wednesday): The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)
   • Scheiner, Chapter 3, Democracy Without Competition in Japan.
   • Video in class: Will watch “Inside Japan – Japanese Politics” (circa 1980, 30 minutes - not available at Shields)

9. 4/25 (Monday): Elections in Japan
   • Scheiner, Chapter 1, Democracy Without Competition in Japan.
   • At the end of lecture, I will answer any questions you have relating to the midterm and the study guide.

10. 4/27 (Wednesday): Midterm
11. 5/2 (Monday): General Change
   • Gordon, Modern History of Japan, pp. 291-332.
     o Note that this is part of the earlier Gordon reading

12. 5/4 (Wednesday): Defense/Security Policy

13. 5/9 (Monday): Video
   • Video in class: “Pictures at an Election: or How to Get Votes in Japan,” by Axel Klein (2007 – not available at Shields) – roughly 75 minutes

14. 5/11 (Wednesday): Political-Economic Change
     o For information on the babysitting co-op, see:
       http://www.pkarchive.org/theory/baby.html
   • http://www.economist.com/node/13976392
   • http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/06/world/asia/06japan.html

Take-home Essay will be assigned at Smartsite (at the “POL148B Essay” prompt under the “Assignments” tab) by the end of the day after Class #14. It will be due at Smartsite by 3pm on the day of Class #18 (5/25).
Party and Electoral System Continuity and Change

15. 5/16 (Monday): Change
   • Scheiner Japan Summary, pp. 171-173. (In the “Reading” folder under “Resources” in our class smartsite page.)
   • Scheiner, Chapters 5 & 6, Democracy without Competition in Japan.
   • http://www.economist.com/node/7916942?story_id=7916942

16. 5/18 (Wednesday): Continuity
   • Scheiner, Chapters 8 & 10 in Democracy without Competition in Japan.

17. 5/23 (Monday): Big, Big, BIG Change!!!
   • I will post the study guide for the final at Smartsite and my course webpage by today.

18. 5/25 (Wednesday): No class – your papers are due today

19. 5/30 (Monday): Memorial Day – No Class

20. June 1 (Wednesday): You Will Not Believe What’s Been Going on…
   • Katz 2014 summer Foreign Affairs: http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/141480/richard-katz/voodoo-abenomics
     o For this, you probably will need to download the article while on campus and/or logged in to the UCD library system.
   • At the end of lecture, I will answer any questions you have relating to the final and the study guide.

Final Exam
Tuesday, June 7, 6-8pm in our regular classroom