

Political Science 196B
Perspectives on Japanese Democracy: Japanese Party Politics
Winter 2011
Kerr 594, Wednesday 3:10-6pm

Instructor: Ethan Scheiner

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Course Webpage: http://faculty.psdomain.ucdavis.edu/escheiner/courses/pol196b_esysts.html

Course Summary: This course is an advanced political science seminar, which focuses on postwar Japanese party politics and elections. Although the class emphasizes analysis of Japan, the real point of the course is to learn how to do more advanced social science analysis and social science writing.

The course will have a seminar format. Students will be expected to pay close attention to the reading and come to class prepared to discuss it. In addition, indicating a knowledge of the reading will be critical to doing well on the written assignments.

***The class is especially recommended for students who have a strong background in political science and/or knowledge of Japan. The course will be more difficult for students who know little about Japanese politics, but knowledge of Japan is not a prerequisite.

As I mentioned, this is an advanced seminar. This means a number of things, most notably that there is a lot of reading, the course is mostly discussion (not lecture), and we will be doing advanced political science analysis and writing. For this reason, I only recommend taking this class if you:

- tend to do VERY well (i.e., A's and A-minuses) in most of their political science courses,
- are prepared to read all of the weekly assignments carefully before each class session,
- plan to be an active participant in class each week,
- and work really hard on the written assignments.

Required Texts:

- Krauss, Ellis, and Robert Pekkanen. 2011. *The Rise and Fall of Japan's LDP: Political Party Organizations as Historical Institutions*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Rosenbluth, Frances, and Michael Thies. 2010. *Japan Transformed: Political Change and Economic Restructuring*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Scheiner, Ethan. 2006. *Democracy Without Competition in Japan: Opposition Failure in One-Party Dominant Japan*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Coursepack at Davis Textbooks (236 A St.) – in the syllabus, these readings are listed as “**Coursepack**.”
 - If there is any problem with acquiring the coursepack at Davis Textbooks, inquire at Davis Copy Shop (231 Third St.).
- Also, some of the reading will be online. If a reading does not say “Coursepack,” note that it is (or will be) available at “Smartsite,” or have a link attached to it, you need to search for the article at JSTOR/scholar.google.com/etc. For information on accessing, see the following or come see me in office hours:
 - <http://faculty.psdomain.ucdavis.edu/escheiner/courses/Online%20Reading%20Access.pdf>

There is also a recommended text for background on some of the arguments made about Japanese politics:

- Ramseyer, J. Mark, and Frances Rosenbluth. 1993. *Japan's Political Marketplace*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

I will place all of the books on 2-hour reserve at Shields during the first week of classes.

In addition to the above, I recommend regularly checking the English language version of Japanese daily newspapers. Perhaps try:

- Daily Yomiuri: <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/>
- Asahi Shimbun: <http://www.asahi.com/english/>

I also recommend the following excellent blog on Japanese politics:

- <http://www.observingjapan.com/>

Assignments:

- Weekly reading assignments
- Class participation (10%). Keep this in mind: If the rest of your work is flawless, but you don't participate in class, the highest grade you can get in the class is an A- (i.e., 90%).
- The class will be divided into a few groups. Each group will regularly write “practice” intro paragraphs (no more than 6 sentences), which we will discuss in class.
 - Please send these to me by 4pm the day before class.
- Essay 1 (35%): 5-7 pages. Due by Wednesday, February 2 at 4pm with automatic extension to Monday, February 7 at 4pm.
- Essay 2 (55%): 6-8 pages. Due by Tuesday, March 15 at 4pm with automatic extension to Thursday, March 17 at 4pm.

Written Assignments

The general paper plan: *To be assigned by one week prior to the due date.*

Format:

- Double-spaced
- Times New Roman, 12-point font
- 1 inch margins
- A title page, which includes the course title, instructor's name (Professor Ethan Scheiner), title of the assignment, date the assignment is due, your name and ID#.
- Make sure your name is only on the title page. I don't want to know whose paper I'm reading.
- Page numbers on all pages (and all pages in order)
- The paper should be STAPLED in the top left hand corner (paper clips are not acceptable). Also, please don't use special covers/binding, etc.
- Plagiarism: "Plagiarism means using another's work without giving credit. You must put others' words in quotation marks and cite your source(s) and must give citations when using others' ideas, even if those ideas are paraphrased in your own words."
(Incidentally, I got these words from the plagiarism webpage <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/avoid.htm>.) This includes work that you find on the internet! Any student caught plagiarizing will get a zero for the assignment, may fail the course, and even be expelled from school.
- Include a bibliography at the end of the paper, listing all citations used. If you use websites, include the web page address in the bibliography. However, your main citations should be from the work assigned in this class. Much of your grade will be based on your comprehension of the material that we read in *this* course, so I would prefer that you not use any outside sources.
- Please use parentheses to cite any work that guides your analysis. Here are 2 examples of how you might cite from p. 295 of Gordon's 2003 book:
 - As Gordon notes, "Japan's relations with Asia and the rest of the world also involved a complex mix of tension and cooperation" (2003: 295).
 - Of course, there was both tension and cooperation in Japan's interactions with the rest of Asia (Gordon 2003: 295).
- Either one or two sided printing is fine with me.
- Please stick closely to the prescribed lengths (I won't read past the maximum page limit that I list below) and due dates.
 - Essay 1 (35%): 5-7 pages. Due Wednesday, February 2 at 4pm with automatic extension to Monday, February 7 at 4pm.
 - Essay 2 (55%): 6-8 pages. Due Tuesday, March 15 at 4pm with automatic extension to Thursday, March 17 at 4pm.
 - I will probably give any student in the class who turns in the paper after 3/17 an incomplete (although I will change this to a letter grade after I receive the final paper)
 - Unless meeting an extension that I had already given you, any paper not turned in by 9am on 3/22 will receive a 0.

How to turn in – both hard copy AND by email, please!

- **Hard copy in the Political Science Office (Kerr 469)**
 - The office is open 9am-noon & 1-4pm on regular business days.
 - Be sure to get the paper time/date stamped
- **Also, please email the paper to me.**

Extensions/Turning in papers late:

- I am very strict on this issue. Please see the following link for detailed information on extensions/late papers:

<http://faculty.psdomain.ucdavis.edu/escheiner/courses/Extensions%20and%20Turning%20in%20Work%20Late.pdf>

Class Dates, Topics and Assignments

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

1. Introduction and brief discussion of writing (1/5)

- Scheiner, Ch2
- Rosenbluth & Thies, Chapters 1, 4, 5
- Curtis, Gerald. 1992. "Japan." In David Butler and Austin Ranney (eds.), *Electioneering: A Comparative Study of Continuity and Change*. Oxford: Clarendon Press. **Coursepack**
- **Also, please download the power point slides for today's class – we will briefly discuss writing. This is the only day that I will do power point in class.**

Today will be a short class:

- *We'll each introduce ourselves and I'll introduce the class.*
- *We will briefly discuss strategies for good writing.*
- *We will create groups of 3-4 students who will put together intro paragraphs throughout the quarter.*

2. "Old" Politics & Discussion of Essay Writing & How to Read Quantitative Analysis (1/12)

- Scheiner, Chs 5 & 6
- Krauss & Pekkanen, Chs 2, 4 & 8

Assignment:

Along with your group, please create the intro paragraph for an essay that explains the main argument in Scheiner, Ch.5.

- *In class, we will look at the paragraphs and discuss them as a class.*

However, the bulk of today will involve me lecturing on and you asking questions about Japanese party politics 1955-1993. However, today's and next week's classes are unusual - I will not usually lecture.

3. “New” Politics (1/19)

- Rosenbluth & Thies, Ch 6
- Pempel, T. J. 1997. "Regime Shift: Japanese Politics in a Changing World Economy," *Journal of Japanese Studies* 23: 333-61.
- Scheiner, Chs 8-9

Assignment:

Along with your group, please create the intro paragraph for an essay that explains the main argument in Pempel's article.

- *In class, we will look at the paragraphs and discuss them as a class.*

I will probably lecture some today to make sure that we are up to speed on what happened between 1993 and the early 2000s in Japanese party politics.

4. New Electoral System & New Politics (1/26)

- Rosenbluth & Thies, Chs 7 & 8
- Reed, Steven R. 2005. "Japan: Haltingly Toward a Two-Party System." Pp. 277-294 in Michael Gallagher and Paul Mitchell (eds.), *The Politics of Electoral Systems*. New York: Oxford University Press. **Coursepack**
- Krauss & Pekkanen, Ch 3 (but only pp. 65-67,90-99), & Ch 5

Assignment:

Along with your group, please create the intro paragraph for an essay that explains the main argument in the Reed chapter.

- *In class, we will look at the paragraphs and discuss them as a class.*

5. Essay 1 is due – No class (2/2)

- Essay 1 (35%): 5-7 pages. Due by Wednesday, February 2 at 4pm with automatic extension to Monday, February 7 at 4pm.
 - **But please be sure to come to class on 2/9 having read that day's reading**

6. Clientelism, Pork, and the Organized Vote in Japan (2/9)

- Köllner, Patrick. 2002. "Upper House Elections in Japan and the Power of the 'Organized Vote.'" *Japanese Journal of Political Science* (2002), 3: 113-137.
- Scheiner, Ch3
- Hirano, Shigeo. 2006. "Electoral Systems, Hometowns, and Favored Minorities: Evidence from Japanese Electoral Reforms." *World Politics* 59: 51-82.
- Noble, Gregory W. 2010. "The Decline of *Particularism* in Japanese Politics." *Journal of East Asian Studies* 10: 239-273.

Assignment:

Along with your group, please create the intro paragraph for an essay that explains the main argument in the Noble article.

- In class, we will look at the paragraphs and discuss them as a class.

7. No Class, but please read – you will be responsible for this reading for the final essay (2/16)

- Kabashima, Ikuo, and Gill Steel. 2010. *Changing Politics in Japan*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
 - Chapters 3, 7, & 8, and Appendix A. **Coursepack**
- <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20090804i1.html>
- Scheiner, Ethan, and Filippo Tronconi. 2011. "Unanticipated Consequences of Electoral Reform in Italy and Japan." In *A Natural Experiment on Electoral Law Reform: Evaluating the Long Run Consequences of 1990s Electoral Reform in Italy and Japan*, Daniela Giannetti and Bernard Grofman (eds.). New York: Springer. (**Smartsite**)

8. Koizumi and the New, New Politics (2/23)

- Gregory Noble, “Front Door, Back Door: The Reform of Postal Savings and Loans in Japan.” *The Japanese Economy* 33: 107-23.
- Krauss and Pekkanen, Ch9
- Köllner, Patrick. 2004. “Factionalism in Japanese political parties revisited or How do factions in the LDP and the DPJ differ?” *Japan Forum* 16: 87–109.
- Koellner, Patrick. 2009. “Japanese Lower House Campaigns in Transition: Manifest Changes or Fleeting Fads?” *Journal of East Asian Studies* 9:121-149.

Assignment:

Along with your group, please create the intro paragraph for an essay that explains the main argument in the Krauss and Pekkanen chapter.

- *In class, we will look at the paragraphs and discuss them as a class.*

9. LDP Loss/DPJ Victory (3/2)

- Rosenbluth & Thies, Epilogue
- Pempel, T.J. 2010. “Between Pork and Productivity: The Collapse of the Liberal Democratic Party.” *Journal of Japanese Studies* 36: 227-254.
- Patricia Maclachlan, “The Politics and Implications of Postal Reform.” Unpublished paper, 2010. (**Smartsite**)
- Reed, Scheiner, & Thies – Association of Asian Studies conference paper (**to be posted at smartsite by 4 days before class**)
- Horiuchi & Saito paper: <http://pantheon.yale.edu/~js454/merger.pdf>

Assignment:

Along with your group, please create the intro paragraph for an essay that explains the main argument in the Pempel article.

- *In class, we will look at the paragraphs and discuss them as a class.*

10. What is happening now? (3/9)

- **Will be likely to update the reading for this week by 3/2**
- Scheiner consolidation chapter for Stanford conference (**to be posted at smartsite by 4 days before class**)
- Vogel, Steven. 2010. “Japan’s Long Road to Competitive Politics.” *Current History* 9-10: 232-6. (**Smartsite**)
- http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2010/08/31/the_worst_job_in_japan
- <http://www.japaninc.com/mgz85/internet-electioneering>
- <http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T101213003235.htm>

Essay 2

- Essay 2 (55%): 6-8 pages. Due Tuesday, March 15 at 4pm with automatic extension to Thursday, March 17 at 4pm.
 - I will probably give any student in the class who turns in the paper after 3/17 an incomplete (although I will change this to a letter grade after I receive the final paper)
 - Unless meeting an extension that I had already given you, any paper not turned in by 9am on 3/22 will receive a 0.