Course Description
Within a decade of defeat in the Pacific War Japan emerged as a major economic power and crucial Cold War ally of the United States. Now, after a period of stagnation Japan is undergoing a series of political and economic changes that have been likened to those of the Meiji Restoration of 1868 and defeat in war. These changes include the reordering of Japan’s political economy and the adoption of a more active foreign policy. Japan is poised to play an important role in shaping the future of the Asia-Pacific, the region that promises to determine the course of the coming century.

In this course we examine the politics, economics, and foreign policy of Japan. The course is organized around three themes: 1) the classical model of Japanese political economy and its breakdown; 2) challenges facing Japan as it struggles to navigate a difficult transition, and 3) Japanese grand strategy.

Questions we will consider during the course include:
• How can we explain Japan’s postwar economic performance, and its recent stagnation?
• Why did the Liberal Democratic Party stay in power for so long? What explains its return to power?
• Is Japan becoming a ‘normal nation’ in its conduct of foreign policy?

Learning Outcomes
As a result of completing this course, students will:
• Evaluate the major explanations for Japan’s postwar economic performance and political dynamics
• Understand the determinants of Japanese foreign policy
• Use analytic tools developed in the course to theorize about current
changes in Japan's political economy and foreign policy.
Course Assessment
Student performance is assessed in three ways:

- A midterm examination held in class on .
- Analytic paper
  - Choice to write on section II, III, or IV
  - Details, including paper topics, handed out later
- A final examination, held during exam period.

Grade Breakdown
The grade breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytic Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Analytic Paper
There is an analytic paper required in this class. The paper should be a maximum of 2000 words long, including footnotes. Paper topics will be handed out during the semester.

- I use the following scale for grading:
  - A (93-100); A- (90-92); B+ (87-89); B (83-86); B- (80-82); C+ (77-79); C (73-76);
  - C- (70-72); D (60-69); F (0-59).

Class Policies

Attendance Policy
The readings and lectures are complementary to one another. Exams and papers will cover material from both. It is therefore in your interest to keep up with the readings and attend lectures regularly.

Academic Integrity
The GW Code of Academic Integrity states that “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresentation of one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.”

For the remainder of the code, see: [http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html](http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html)

Students who have been identified as breaking the code will automatically
receive zero marks for the relevant course component. Students identified as breaking the code more than once receive an automatic fail for the course. Claiming ignorance about how or when to cite sources is not an excuse for academic dishonesty.

The Writing Center (http://www.gwu.edu/~gwriter/) can help you ensure you cite correctly, as well as with other aspects of paper writing.

**Late Work**
Work handed in late will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each day it is late. Work not handed in will receive zero marks. There are only two exceptions: illness or family emergency. You must provide written documentation, such as a doctor’s note in the case of illness, to be granted permission to hand in work at a later date. **THIS MUST BE ARRANGED PRIOR TO THE DUE DATE.**

**Make Up Exams**
Make-up examinations will not be held unless for reasons of: 1) illness; 2) family emergency; 3) if the assessment date falls on a religious holiday. Please contact me in advance of the date if you require a make-up examination for religious reasons.

**Support for Students Outside the Classroom**
**Disability Support Services (DSS)**
Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss

**University Counseling Center (UCC) – 202-994-5300**
The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students’ personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include:
- crisis and emergency health consultations
- confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals

For additional information please refer to: http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/counselingservices/academicsupportservices

**Security**
In the case of emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.
Course Readings
Sections of the following books will be assigned during the semester. They cover Japan’s modern history from the perspectives of politics, the economy, and grand strategy. You can purchase them from the university bookshop or online through Amazon.com or equivalent online bookstores. Most of the other readings will be available on Blackboard.


Blackboard
Readings that are not available online through library services are available on Blackboard. Please ensure you know how to access readings and post to the Blackboard system by the beginning of semester.

This is a tremendously exciting time to be researching and learning about Japan’s politics, economy, and foreign policy. The rapidity of recent changes and nature of the publishing business mean that academic work inevitably appears with some lag from the events of today. For this reason I encourage you to get into the habit of using online resources. Most of the major Japanese newspapers have online English editions, including the right-leaning Yomiuri (http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/), left-leaning Asahi (http://www.asahi.com/english/), and centrist Mainichi (http://mdn.mainichi.jp/) The major business daily is the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, or Nikkei as it is commonly known (http://www.nni.nikkei.co.jp/e/fr/freetop.aspx). Make one your top-page for the semester and you’ll be surprised how much you learn.

The blogosphere also has engaged the world of Japanese political economy. The following blogs are also worth checking if you have the time. They vary in their degree of irreverence, so be warned!

- East Asia Forum (http://www.eastasiaforum.org/)
- Japan Economy News (http://www.japaneconomynews.com/)
- Shisaku (http://shisaku.blogspot.com/)
Part I - Laying the Foundations for the Course (and the Japanese State)

Week 1: Course Description and Introduction

Key Questions
- What is this course about?
- What were the economic and political foundations of the Tokugawa regime?
- What was the institutional structure of the Meiji State? How did this effect politics?

Required Readings
- Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*, 3-75; 93-112

Recommended Readings
- 1889 Constitution of the Empire of Japan (http://history.hanover.edu/texts/1889con.html)

Week 2 - Japan in the Cold War

Key Questions
- What were the major institutional reforms carried out by SCAP? What effects did they have on Japan’s political economy?
- Are the pre- and post-war periods best understood as continuous, or as two distinct periods?
- How did the Cold War effect postwar Japan?

Required Readings

Recommended Readings
Part II - The Classical Age of Japan’s Political Economy

Week 3 - The “1955 System”: Institutional Foundations of Economic Growth

Key Questions
- What is the developmental state?
- How important was it in promoting Japanese economic growth?

Required Readings
- Chalmers Johnson, MITI and the Japanese Miracle, 1-34.

Recommended Readings

Week 4 - The Politics of Economic Growth

Key Questions
- Why did the LDP dominate the postwar era?

Required Readings
- Bradley Richardson, Japanese Democracy, 49-73.

Recommended Readings

Week 5 - Pressure for Change - Politics

Key Questions
• What pressures forced change in Japan’s model of political economy?

Required Readings
• Aurelia George Mulgan *The Role of Foreign Pressure (gaiatsu) in Japan’s Agricultural Trade Liberalization*, *The Pacific Review* Vol. 10 No. 2 (1997), 165-209.

Week 6 - Pressure for Change - Economics

Key Questions
• What was the economic Bubble? What were its effects?

Required Readings

Recommended Readings

Week 7 - Foreign Policy of Japan in the post-Cold War Era

Part III - The Era of Reform

Week 8 - Mid Term Examination
Week 9 - The Era of Reform: Political Reform I

Key Questions
• What were the causes of the political crisis of the 1990s?

Required Readings

Week 10 - The Era of Reform: Political Reform II

Key Questions
• The politics of electoral reform
• The Koizumi Phenomenon: The LDP’s last attempt to reorganize itself

Required Readings

Week 11 - The Era of Reform: The Rise of the DPJ

Key Questions
• The defeat of the LDP & Rise of the DPJ

Required Readings

Recommended Readings

---

**Week 12 - The Empire Strikes Back: The LDP ouster of the DPJ**

**Key Questions**
• Why did the DPJ face such problems? How did the LDP capitalize on these to regain power?

**Required Readings**
• Michael J. Green, “Japan’s Confused Revolution,” *The Washington Quarterly* January 2010

---

**Part IV - Abe’s Japan: Can Reform Succeed this time around?**

**Week 13 - The Reemergence of (In)security**

**Key Questions**
• How has Japanese foreign and security policy changed since the end of the Cold War?
• To what extent can we characterize changes in foreign policy as fundamentally undermining the ‘Yoshida Doctrine’?

**Required Readings**
• Samuels, *Securing Japan*, 63-132.
• Christopher W. Hughes, *Japan’s Reemergence as a ‘Normal’ Military Power*, 41-96.

**Recommended Readings**

---

**Week 14 - Foreign Relations Under the Abe Cabinet**

**Key Questions**
• What is the future of Japan’s foreign and security policy?
**Required Readings**
- Pyle, Finnegan, Green etc. “Roundtable: A New Stage for the U.S.-Japan Alliance,” *Asia Policy* No. 10 (July 2010), 1-41.

---

**Week 15 - Abenomics: An Evaluation**

**Key Questions**
- What are the challenges that Japan faces in the coming years? Will the “Three Arrows” of Abenomics re-energize Japan’s economy? Or will Japan continue to muddle through?

**Required Readings**
- T.b.a.