

SSC 316 Social Change and Politics in Japan

Second Term 2009-10

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Office Hours: Posted on the door of my office (on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays). Other times are available by prior appointment.

Mode of Tuition: Lecture (2 hours per week, every Monday at 9.30 a.m.) and tutorial (1 hour per week)

Programme Category: Elective course for CAPA and CSIP streams

Course Description and Aims: The course examines some of the more significant features and characteristics of Japanese society and considers a number of social issues that are being debated currently in Japan. It also examines the structure and dynamics of the Japanese political system, analyses the inter-relationships of politicians, bureaucracy and business, and assesses the prospects for fundamental political change. Finally, we will consider how Japan as a state and the Japanese themselves are coping with the demands of this new century.

Learning Outcomes: On completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of the forces shaping Japan's social and political systems at the beginning of the twenty-first century
2. appreciate the dynamics of change and the elements of continuity in modern Japan
3. apply fundamental sociological and political concepts to the study of Japan.

Course Content:

- I. Historical, geographical and cultural background of Japan:
change and continuity
- II. The post-war 'economic miracle'
- III. Japanese society
 - i. The social structure: a vertical society?
 - ii. Work environment and company culture

- iii. Role of women: family and work
- IV. Social change and social issues
 - i. Education
 - ii. Social welfare and the 'ageing society'
 - iii. Environment
 - iv. Law and order
- V Special interest groups and social movements
 - Trade unions, agricultural cooperatives, citizen movements, business associations
- VI Japanese politics
 - i. Political structures and processes
 - ii. Political parties: evolution and characteristics (Liberal Democratic Party, Japan Socialist Party, Democratic Party of Japan)
- VII Bureaucracy and the 'iron triangle'
- VIII Challenges in the 21st century
 - i. Reform and revitalisation
 - ii Internationalisation and Japan's place in the world

Assessment and Measurement of Learning Outcomes

Examination: 50%. To assess your overall knowledge of and ability to discuss key concepts and interpret core factual information relating to Japanese society and politics. (Learning outcomes 1-3)

Continuous Assessment: 50% . Sub-divided into four components:

1.A tutorial presentation which demonstrates your ability to discuss/argue on a topic in a well-organised and logical manner. You will be arranged into groups of 2-3 students, so a collective group grade is given (10%). (Learning outcomes 1-3)

2.An individually-written term paper in which you will analyse and discuss a question related to one of the themes covered in this course in a logical and clear manner (including footnotes/citations and references list/bibliography). An individual grade is given (20%). Grading of the term paper will give weight to content, originality, organisational structure, referencing comprehensiveness and style. Deadline is **Monday 19 April**. (Learning outcomes 1-3)

3.Participation in class discussions. Your grade depends on the quality as well as the quantity of your contributions (10%). (Learning outcomes 1-3)

4.A Mid-term test that will examine your knowledge of the first half of the course (10%). This test will be held on **Monday 1 March**. (Learning outcome 1)

Tutorial Discussion Topics: to be outlined and allocated during the first week of tutorials.

Suggested Readings

Required

McCargo, Duncan 2004, *Contemporary Japan* (New York: PalgraveMacmillan, 2nd edition).

Supplementary

Boscaro, Adriana et al 1991 *Rethinking Japan (Vol. 2)* (Folkestone: Japan Library)

Buckley, Roger 1998 *Japan Today* (Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 3rd edition)

Gordon, Andrew (ed). 1993. *Postwar Japan as History* (Berkeley: Univ. of California)

Hayes, Louis. 2009. *Introduction to Japanese Politics* (New York: M.E.Sharpe, 5th. ed) [ordered by Library]

Hendry, Joy. 2003 *Understanding Japanese Society* (London: Routledge, 3rd. ed)

Katz, Richard 1998 *Japan: the System that Soured* (New York: M.E.Sharpe)

Kingston, Jeffrey 2001 *Japan in Transformation, 1952-2000* (Harlow: Pearson)

Kohno, Masaru 1997 *Japan's Postwar Party Politics* (Princeton: Princeton University Press)

Nakane, Chie. 1970. *Japanese Society* (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press)

Neary, Ian 2002 , *State and Politics in Japan* (Oxford: Blackwell)

Stockwin, J.A.A. 2008 *Governing Japan: Divided Politics in a Resurgent Economy* (Oxford: Blackwell)

Sugimoto, Yoshio 1997 *An Introduction to Japanese Society* (Cambridge: CUP)

[Use also *Kodansha Encyclopaedia of Japan* (available online from Library database) and internet sources such as the Japan Information Network on <http://jin.jcic.or.jp>]

Specific Themes and Readings

Historical and Economic Background

Buckley chaps. 1 and 3

Hendry chap. 1

Hayes chaps. 1, 2 and 9 [check new edition]

Katz chaps 2, 3, and 4
Kingston, chap.2
McCargo chaps. 2 and 3

Social Structure

Buckley chap. 5
Hendry chaps. 2, 3 and 6
Hayes chap. 8 [check new edition]
Nakane chaps. 1, 2, 3 and 4
Gordon chap. 8
McCargo chap. 4

Work Environment

Buckley chaps. 3 and 5
Hendry chap. 9
Nakane chap. 4
Sugimoto chap. 4

Gender Issues

Buckley, chap. 5
Kingston chap.7
Sugimoto chap. 6
Gordon chaps. 11 and 13
McCargo chap. 4

Education

Buckley chap. 5
Hayes chap. 10 [check new edition]
Hendry chap. 5
McCargo chap. 7
Sugimoto chap. 5
M. Stephens, *Education and the Future of Japan*

Social Welfare and Ageing

Kingston, chap. 8
McCargo chap. 4
Neary, chap.12
S. Linhart chapter in Boscaro et al, *Rethinking Japan*
G.Matthews and B.White, *Japan's Changing Generations*

Environment

H. Maull article in *Pacific Review*, Vol. 4, No.3 (1991).
N.Huddle and M.Reich, *Island of Dreams*
P.E.Lam, *Green Politics in Japan*
T.George, *Minamata*, introduction and conclusion

Law and Order

Kaplan, D. and A. Dubro, *Yakuza: Japan's Criminal Underworld*
Hendry chap.12
Kingston chap.10
McCargo chap 7.
Sugimoto chap. 10

Interest Groups and Bureaucracy

Hayes chaps. 3 and 7
McCargo chap 5
Neary chap. 7
Stockwin chap. 7
Sugimoto chap. 8

Political Parties and Processes

Buckley chaps. 2 and 6
Hayes chaps. 4, 5 and 6 [check new edition]
Kohno chaps. 7 and 8
Kingston chap.3
Kohno chaps. 7 and 8
McCargo chap. 6
Neary chaps. 4, 5 and 6
Stockwin chaps. 5, 6, 8 and 9
A. Gaunder, *Political Reform in Japan*
A.G.Mulgan, *Japan's Failed Revolution*, chaps.1, 5 and 8

The Future of Japan

Buckley chaps. 4 and 7
Katz chap 14
Kingston chaps. 9 and 10
McCargo chap. 9
Stockwin chaps. 1 and 13

POINTS TO NOTE:

1.Please try to remember to turn off pagers and mobile phones before entering the classroom/lecture room, as a courtesy to the lecturer and to your fellow students.

2.The term paper deadline is Monday 19 April.

Term papers can be handed in early. But, papers handed in late are downgraded on a progressive scale.

Your term paper should be around 1300-1500 words in length. Keep it concise and relevant.

The paper must include some form of referencing. There are several acceptable formats: either numbered footnotes or short citations in the text (using the 'Harvard style'). Use whichever style you wish, but be consistent and make sure that you do cite sources appropriately. There must also be a list of references or bibliography at the end of the paper.

You should be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. Random checks using anti-plagiarism software may be made.

Further details on the range of topics for your term paper will be given during the course.