
Instructor: Masato Kamikubo	2 Or 4 Credits
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Semester:

Outline:

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The objective of this course is to give students an overview of the contemporary Japanese policy-making process at the state level. To understand policy-making process this course will provide foundational knowledge of Japanese politics: (1) the bureaucracy; (2) the party system; (3) the parliamentary system; (4) interest groups; (5) trade unions; and (6) relationships among politicians, bureaucrats, and business executives. As part of this course's objective, I will utilise the "Koizumi Structural Reform in the 2000s" as a case study. In the process of reform, we can better comprehend complex relationships between the 'reformer' prime minister, his allies, young reformer politicians and bureaucrats, resistance forces (*zoku giin* and bureaucrats), and interest groups. Also, we can examine several networks between politicians, bureaucrats, and industry, and the methods for decision-making in Japanese policy-making process, such as *nemawashi* (prior consultation) and *chousei* (reconciliation). In line with the objectives laid out in this course, students are expected to understand Japanese style organisations and human behaviour in them.

Schedule:

(Please describe abstract schedule in 15 classes or 30 classes)

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1. Introductory Session
2. Party System [Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) + Opposition]
3. Electoral System [General Election, Election of House of Councillors]
4. National Diet [House of Representatives, House of Councillors]
5. Cabinet (Cabinet Secretariat + Cabinet Office)
6. Bureaucracy (1): Bureaucratic Behaviour in Policy-making Process
7. Bureaucracy (2): Ministry of Finance (MOF) Networks with Political Arena, Financial Institutions, Other Government Agencies and Central Bank
8. Bureaucracy (3): Ministry of Finance's Budget-making Authority and

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Personnel System of Bureaucracy (Lifetime Employment and *Amakudari*)

9. Logical Thinking and How to Write Essay
10. Policy-making Process (1): [Policy-making in Bureaucracy]
11. Policy-making Process (2): [Preliminary Review of Policies in Ruling Party on Bills]
12. Policy-making Process (3): [Diet Session on Bills]
13. Budget making process (1): [Budgetary Requests]
14. Budget making process (2): [Restoration Negotiations, Cabinet decision, Diet session]
15. Administrative Reform: Nakasone and Hashimoto Reforms
16. Financial System Reform (1) : MOF Organisational Reform
17. Financial System Reform (2): Nonperforming Loan problem
18. Financial System Reform (3): Big Bang Reform
19. Background of Koizumi Reform (1): Electoral System Reform and Party System
20. Background of Koizumi Reform (2): Koizumi's Political Style and Methods
21. Koizumi Structural Reform (1): Fiscal Structure Reform and Settlement of Nonperforming Loan Problem
22. Koizumi Structural Reform (2): Privatisation of Japan Highway Corporation and Trinity Reform
23. Koizumi Structural Reform (3): Health Care Reform and Pension Reform
24. Koizumi Structural Reform (4): Privatisation of Postal Service
25. Koizumi Structural Reform (5): Koizumi Diplomacy
26. Koizumi Structural Reform (6): Structural Reform Group versus Fiscal Reform Group in the LDP
27. Koizumi Structural Reform (7): 'New' Ministry of Finance (*Zaimusho*)
28. Abe, Fukuda and Aso Administration: "Twisted Diet"
29. New Administration after the 2009 General Election
30. Concluding Session

Readings:

Textbooks

Suggested Readings

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• Textbooks:

Amyx, Jennifer, and Drysdale, Peter eds. (2003) *Japanese governance: beyond Japan Inc.* London; New York: RoutledgeCurzon.

Kamikubo, Masato (2006), *Bureaucratic Behaviour and Policy Change: Reforming the Role of Japan's Ministry of Finance.* PhD Dissertation, University of Warwick.

Shinoda, Tomohito (2007), *Koizumi Diplomacy: Japan's Kantei Approach to Foreign and Defense Affairs.* Washington DC: University of Washington Press.

(Lecturer will give the students further information in the introductory session).

• Suggested Readings:

Amyx, Jennifer A. (2004), *Japan's Financial Crisis: Institutional Rigidity and Reluctant Change.* Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press).

Aoki, Masahiko (1988) *Information, Incentives, and Bargaining in the Japanese Economy.* New York: Cambridge University Press.

Campbell, John C. (1977) *Contemporary Japanese Budget Politics.* Berkeley: University of Calif. Press.

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

Pempel, T. J. ed. (1977), *Policy Making in Contemporary Japan.* Ithaca, NY. Cornell University Press.

Reed, Steven ed. (2003), *Japanese Electoral Politics: Creating a New Party System.* Routledge Curzon.

Richardson, Bradley (1997), *Japanese Democracy: Power, Coordination and Performance.* New Haven and London: Yale University Press.

Samuels, Richard J. (1994) *Rich Nation, Strong Army: National Security and the Technical Transformation of Japan.* Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Silbarman, Bernard S. (1993) *Cages of Reason: The Rise of the Rational State in France, Japan, the United States, and Great Britain.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Wright, Maurice (2002) *Japan's Fiscal Crisis: The Ministry of Finance and the Politics of Public Spending, 1975-2000.* New York: Oxford University Press.

Grading criteria: Attendance/Assignment/Examination/Paper

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Attendance 50%, Assignment (Report) 50%,

Requirements:

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Consistent attendance is required. Students have to read political news pages in newspapers every day.

URL:

