

Course number		U-LAS06 20023 LE42						
Course title (and course title in English)	Japanese Politics-E2			Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation	Graduate School of Law			
	Japanese Politics-E2				Professor,HIJINO KEN			
Group	Humanities and Social Sciences			Field(Classification)	Jurisprudence, Politics and Economics(Issues)			
Language of instruction	English			Old group	Group A		Number of credits	2
Number of weekly time blocks	1	Class style	Lecture (Face-to-face course)		Year/semesters	2025・First semester		
Days and periods	Tue.2		Target year	2nd year students or above		Eligible students	For all majors	
(Students of Faculty of Law cannot take this course as liberal arts and general education course. Please register the course with your department.)								
[Overview and purpose of the course]								
<p>This is an introductory course on Japanese politics which considers the nature of Japan's political institutions from a comparative perspective. The course will analyze how variation in key political institutions (such as the electoral system) affects political outcomes in Japan and other democracies. The course is organized into three parts: 1) a brief survey of Japanese political history from the Meiji era to the present 2) a description and comparison of Japan's key political institutions 3) investigation into a number of political themes in post-war Japan.</p> <p>Along the way, students are introduced to basic social science methodologies of comparison to generate causal inferences as well as some basic analytical models used in comparative politics (such as the principal-agent and veto player model).</p>								
[Course objectives]								
<p>The goal of this course is for students to begin to contemplate how the preferences of voters, politicians, parties and interest groups are constrained and channeled by political institutions. Another goal is for students to improve their English reading and writing skills through studying in English a subject that they may be familiar with in the Japanese language.</p>								
[Course schedule and contents)]								
<p>1.Introduction: What is politics? What are political institutions? Why compare?</p> <p>Part one: An overview of Japan's political history</p> <p>2. Pre-war politics: the Meiji constitution and politics of oligarchy (1889-1945)</p> <p>3. The Occupation era: the post-war constitution and democratization (1945-51)</p> <p>4. Politics of the high-growth era: the 1955-system (1955-1993)</p> <p>5. Politics of the lost decades: political reform and transition (1993-2013)</p> <p>Part two: Japan's political institutions in comparative perspective</p> <p>6. Electoral rules: majoritarian and proportional systems</p> <p>7. The party system: party types, numbers, and issue cleavages</p> <p>8. Electoral campaigns: watch documentary “ Campaign ”</p> <p>9. Chief executives and leadership: prime ministers and presidents</p> <p>10. The bureaucracy: principal-agent model and the autonomy of bureaucracy</p>								

Continue to Japanese Politics-E2(2)								

Japanese Politics-E2(2)

- 11. The local government system: decentralization and local government autonomy
- 12. Institutional veto players: bicameralism, constitutionalism, and judiciary

Part three: Themes in Japanese politics

- 13. Majoritarianism vs Consociationalism: the future of Japanese democracy
- 14. Demography: aging and youth in politics

[Course requirements]

Previous knowledge in Japanese politics, social sciences or political science will not be required for this class. Students will be expected to read about 20-30 pages of rigorous and academic, though not technical, English. Students will also be expected to write their assignments in English (although this may change according to the class level).

[Evaluation methods and policy]

Students will be evaluated on pop quizzes = 30% and a final examination = 70% for their grade.

[Textbooks]

Frances McCall Rosenbluth and Michael F. Thies 『Japan Transformed: Political Change and Economic Restructuring』 (Princeton University Press) ISBN:978-0691135922 (建林正彦、曾我謙悟、待鳥聡史
『比較政治制度論』 (2008) 有斐閣 アルマ)

[References, etc.]

(References, etc.)

Clark, Golder and Golder 『Principles of Comparative Politics, 2nd edition』 (Sage CQ Press) ISBN:978-1608716791

[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

Students will be expected to read and prepare for at least 2-3 hours per class each week.

[Other information (office hours, etc.)]

I will not have fixed office hours, but students may contact me by email for appointments or questions about the course.

[Essential courses]