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PSC 329.01: Politics of Japan

Louis Hayes

University of Montana - Missoula, louis.hayes@umontana.edu

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Text: Ian Neary, THE STATE AND POLITICS IN JAPAN

This course is concerned with the organization, structure and operation of the political system of Japan. Apart from exploring the main features of the system, the course addresses those social and cultural factors that give the Japanese political system its distinctive character.

Requirements:

Course assessment consists of four elements: two midterm exams, a comprehensive final exam, and a research paper. Of these, one midterm and the final are required. One midterm and the research paper are optional and provide an opportunity to improve the overall grade. The first midterm exam will be on September 29 and the second on November 3. A comprehensive final exam is scheduled for December 16, 10:00-12:00. Exams will consist of identification, short answer and/or essay questions. (BLUEBOOKS REQUIRED)

Optional Paper: The paper should be ten pages minimum or 2500 words and should be based on no fewer than three sources, not including the textbook. The bibliography should consist only of works consulted but not referenced in footnotes. Footnotes and bibliography entries should be in the Turabian style. The first step is to write a short statement indicating the nature of the project. This should be done in the first two or three weeks of the semester.

Assessment of this paper will be based on:

1. A clear delineation of the scope of the paper in terms of the subject matter and the time frame.
2. Quantity and quality of the material presented to adequately describe, analyze, and/or explain the subject of the paper.
3. Organization and structure.
4. Appropriate English language usage.

In order to make the experience of this course as pleasant and rewarding as possible for all concerned, you are asked to observe the following rules. Do not come to class late or depart early. Do not use class time to read the Kaimin, write letters, chat with your neighbors or engage in other activities not related to the course.

Topic Outline:

1. Introduction
Read: Neary, Introduction
2. Historical Background

The Restoration
Read: Neary, Ch. 1

Pre-World War II
Read: Neary, Ch. 2

The Occupation
Read: Neary, Ch. 3

3. Political Parties

Political Parties - I
Read: Neary, Ch. 4

Political Parties - II
Read: Neary, Ch. 5

Party Politics
Read: Neary, Ch. 6

First Midterm Exam September 25

4. Government

Bureaucracy
Read: Neary, Ch. 7

Parliament
Read: Neary, Ch. 8

Local Government
Read: Neary, Ch. 9

5. Policies

Education

The Legal System

Second Midterm Exam October 23

Economics
Read: Neary, Ch. 11

Social
Read: Neary, Ch. 12

Human Rights
Read: Neary, Ch. 13)

6. Foreign Relations Read: Neary, Ch. 10

Final Exam December 16, 8:00-10:00