PSC 329H.01: Politics of Japan

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Texts: Hayes, *Introduction to Japanese Politics*
Curtis, *The United States, Japan, and Asia*

**Requirements:**

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 factors which give Japan its distinctive character.

There will be two one-hour exams. The first will be on March 3 and the second on April 7. These exams will each count for 20% of the final grade. A comprehensive final exam will count for 40% of the final grade. This exam is scheduled for May 10, 3:20-5:20. Exams will consist of combinations of identification, short answer and essay questions.

An additional requirement is a 15 page research paper concerning some aspect of contemporary politics or public policy (contemporary being defined as post-WWII). Deadline for topic selection is February 17. The paper should follow standard manuscript style (Turabian) and is due no later than April 28. It is strongly recommend that these papers be handed in earlier than the due date. LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. The paper counts for 20% of the final grade.

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. Historical Background
   Read: Hayes, Ch. 1; Curtis, Ch. 1

2. The Occupation
   Read: Hayes Ch. 2

3. The Constitutional Framework
   Read: Hayes Ch. 3
4. Political Parties  
   Read: Hayes, Ch. 4, 5

First Exam March 3

5. Parties, Corruption and Reform

6. Political Participation  
   Read: Hayes, Ch. 6

7. The Social Order  
   Read: Hayes, Ch. 7

8. The Economy  
   Read: Hayes, Ch. 8; Curtis, Ch. 2

Second Exam April 7

9. Education  
   Read: Hayes, Ch. 9

10. Public Safety  
    Read: Hayes, Ch. 10

11. Foreign Relations  
    Read: Hayes, Ch. 11; Curtis, Ch. 3-6

12. Defense  
    Read: Hayes, Ch. 12; Curtis, Ch. 7

13. Overview  
    Read: Hayes, Ch. 13; Curtis, Ch. 8

Note: February 16 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.