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PSC 329H.01: Politics of Japan

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Text: Hayes, Introduction to Japanese Politics (2nd ed)

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 1 and the second on April 5. 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 17, 10:10-12:10. Exams will consist of combinations of identification, short answer and essay questions. (BLUEBOOKS REQUIRED)

An additional requirement is a 10 page (minimum) research paper concerning some aspect of contemporary politics or public policy (contemporary being defined as post-World War II). Deadline for topic selection is February 16. The paper should follow standard manuscript style (Turabian) and is due no later than April 26. 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
2. The Occupation
Read: Hayes Ch. 2
3. The Constitutional Framework
Read: Hayes Ch. 3
4. Political Parties
Read: Hayes, Ch. 4

First Exam March 1

5. Political Parties, Corruption and Political Reform
Read: Hayes, Ch. 5
6. Political Participation
Read: Hayes, Ch. 6
7. The Social Order
Read: Hayes, Ch. 7
8. The Economy
Read: Hayes, Ch. 8

Second Exam April 5

9. Education
Read: Hayes, Ch. 9
10. Public Safety
Read: Hayes, Ch. 10
11. Foreign Relations
Read: Hayes, Ch. 11
12. Defense
Read: Hayes, Ch. 12
13. Overview
Read: Hayes, Ch. 13

Final Exam May 17 10:10-12:10

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