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Spring 2-1-2008

PSC 329.01: Politics of Japan

Louis D. 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 Japanese politics its distinctive character.

Requirements:

Course assessment will be based on two exams and one (optional) research paper. The optional research paper is not for extra credit but rather provides an opportunity to earn a better grade. The midterm exam will be on March 7. A comprehensive final exam is scheduled for May 8, 8:00-10:00. 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.

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

4. Government

Bureaucracy
Read: Neary, Ch. 7

Parliament
Read: Neary, Ch. 8

Local Government
Read: Neary, Ch. 9

Midterm Exam March 7

5. Policies

Education

The Legal System

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 May 8, 10:10 - 12:10