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PSC 329.01: Politics of Japan

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Political Science 329
Politics of Japan

Spring 2002
Office Hours: 10-11 MWF
LA 349

Text: Johnson, JAPAN: WHO GOVERNS?

ON RESERVE: Reischauer, THE JAPANESE TODAY

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:

There will be two one-hour exams. The first will be on October 9 and the second on November 13. These exams will each count for 25% of the final grade. A comprehensive final exam will count for 50% of the final grade. This exam is scheduled for December 17, 8:00-10:00. Exams will consist of identification, short answer and/or essay questions. (BLUEBOOKS REQUIRED)

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: Johnson, Ch. 1
2. Historical Background
Read: Reischauer, Ch. 8-9
3. The Occupation
Read: Reischauer, Ch. 10-11
4. Japan: Who Governs?
Read: Johnson, Ch. 6
5. Political psychology
Read: Johnson, Ch. 8

First Exam October 9

6. Political parties
Read: Johnson, Ch. 9

7. Electoral Reform
Read: Johnson, Ch. 10
8. *Amakudari*
Read: Johnson, Ch. 7
9. The Social Order
Read: Reischauer, Ch. 13-17; Johnson, Ch. 2
10. The Economy
Read: Reischauer, Ch. 32-34; Johnson, Ch. 3

Second Exam November 13

11. Trade
Read: Reischauer, Ch. 37; Johnson, Ch. 4
12. Japan and the US
Read: Johnson, Ch. 5
13. Japan and China
Read: Johnson, Ch. 11
14. Defense
Read: Johnson, Ch. 12
15. Japan and Asia
Read: Johnson, Ch. 13
16. Prospects for the future
Read: Johnson, Ch. 14

Final Exam December 17 8:00-10:00

Note: October 14 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.