

Term	Autumn (Three days intensive course; 27-29, January 2009.)
Course	CSPA
Course Title	Contemporary Japanese Politics
Credit	2
Class	No. 2 Conference Room (3rd Floor)
Lecturer	Dr. Toru OGA
Office	202-1 (2nd Floor)
e-mail	toga@law.kyushu-u.ac.jp

Outline

The aim of this course is to introduce essential multi-dimensional aspects of Contemporary Japanese Politics, including politics, economics, society, foreign policy and international relations. At the end of the course, students will have strong knowledge and a good understanding of basic characteristics of contemporary Japan, and will be able to identify and be familiar with problems and challenges Japan has faced. Students are **expected to read in advance**: Ian Neary, *The State and Politics in Japan*, Cambridge: Polity, 2002, which is also used as the main text of the class.

Course Structure

The course consists of a series of discussion classes. In each class, a student or students will be allocated a chapter and will be required to present a summary (with comments) for each chapter.

Day 1 (27 January 2009)

1. Introduction
2. Restoration and Reform in Meiji Japan
3. Political History 1905-1945
4. Postwar Re-creation of the Japanese States: Occupation and Aftermath
5. Conservatives and their Allies

Day 2 (28 January 2009)

6. Socialists and their Allies
7. Party Politics 1992-2000: Toward a New System
8. Bureaucratic Structure and their Reform
9. Parliament
10. Local Government

Day 3 (29 January 2009)

11. Foreign and Defense Policy
12. Industrial Policy
13. Social Welfare Policies
14. Human Rights in Japan
15. Preparation for Assignment

Assessment

The course offers two sorts of assignments. One is, as mentioned above, that students are required to present a summary of particular chapter(s) that have been allocated. The other is that students are required to submit a 5,000 word essay at the end of the course. The details will be presented in the first class. Presentation(s) and the essay are of equal weight for course marks.

Notice (Important!)

Students who are willing to take the course are required to contact me (toga@law.kyushu-u.ac.jp) by the end of December 2008. I will choose students for each class's presentation afterward.