

# Modern Japanese Political History

Introduction to the Course

7 April 2016

# Who, when, where

- Lecturer: Earl H. Kinmonth
- Class Meetings: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> periods, Office Hours: Last 20-30 minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> period.
- Email: ehk@gol.com ehkuso@gmail.com
- Homepage: <http://www2.gol.com/users/ehk/waseda>
- <http://ehk.servebeer.com/waseda>

# What

- The course will follow a loosely chronological narrative beginning with a discussion of the historical legacy imparted by the political practices and ideas of the Tokugawa period.
- Subsequent class meetings will focus on such major political developments as the Meiji Restoration, the establishment of a constitutional system, the rise and decline of party power, the early Showa drive to create a “new order,” and the postwar coalescence of the “1955-system.”

# How

- Because history is inherently subjective narration, this course will frequently deal with historiography – the way in which the contemporary politics of those who wrote history influenced the way in which they depicted the past.
- This knowledge will equip students to understand how contemporary politicians and writers narrate and manipulate the past for their own contemporary goals.

# Japanese Political History is Political

- The writing of Japanese political history has been heavily influenced by the politics of those writing that history
- Marxists
- Nationalists
- Modernists
- Sinologists

# Contemporary Relevance

- Politicized history is in the news almost every day
- “Historical consciousness” 歷史認識
  - Primarily Japan-Korea, Japan-PRC
  - Impacts US-Japan relations, images of Japan
  - “Comfort women” 從軍慰安婦
  - Forced labor during the Pacific War

# Contemporary Relevance

- Politics of history textbooks
  - Foreign (primarily PRC, ROK) criticism of Japanese school textbooks
  - Textbooks to assert government (LDP) claims about “Japanese territory” 日本領土
  - “Military ordered mass suicides” in Okinawa 集団自決
  - Vetting and adoption of textbooks especially the textbooks written by the Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform (新しい歴史教科書をつくる会)

# Presenting an Alternative Interpretation

- Some students may find the interpretation of modern Japanese given by the instructor not to their liking
- Rebuttals and alternative interpretations are welcome
- Raise your objections during lecture
- Give a presentation



# Readings

“required”

Kenneth B. Pyle. *The Making of Modern Japan*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. (NY: D.C. Heath & Co., 1996).

NOT on order with the Waseda Bookstore.

NOT needed if you have had a previous course covering the same period.

NOT needed if you already have another survey text covering this period.

NOT needed if you use the on-line readings from Topics in the Political History of Modern Japan (Fall).

# Readings

(supplementary)

Richard Sims, *Japanese Political History Since the Meiji Renovation, 1868-2000*. NY: Palgrave, 2001.

# Readings

supplementary

*Sources of Japanese Tradition*, vol. 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1600 to 2000, Wm. Theodore de Bary, et al eds., (NY: Columbia University Press, 2005).

Useful for a sense of what major thinkers and political actors said in their own words.

# Alternative Readings

- Supplementary readings from Topics in the Political History of Modern Japan (Fall) are available on line via the homepage for this course.
- Students with a previous course in modern Japanese history may find these readings more useful and interesting than an introductory textbook.

# Attendance & Class Participation

- Students should be aware that some material and interpretations they will need for the final examination essays will only be given in the lectures.
- It will thus be important to attend class regularly and to take notes. Although this course will take a lecture format, questions and discussion are welcome at any point.

# Exams and Grading

- Participation (20%), final examination (80%). The final examination will be in essay format with the questions distributed at least two weeks before the end of the course. **THERE IS NO IN CLASS EXAMINATION.**
- “Participation” is basically attendance under a different name. Attendance will not necessarily be measured by mechanical means. **If your written work fails to include or address material presented only in lecture, it will be assumed that you were either absent or not paying attention.**
- Recognized and excused reasons for missing class include job hunting, illness, bereavement, etc.

# Homepage

- [www2.gol.com/users/ehk/waseda/history3](http://www2.gol.com/users/ehk/waseda/history3)
  - Fast, always available
- [ehk.servebeer.com/waseda/history3](http://ehk.servebeer.com/waseda/history3)
  - Slow, generally off line 0130-0420

# Waseda N@avi

- No plans to use except for email to students
- Use the web sites listed on the syllabus
- Do NOT use my Waseda email address; follow the instructions on the next slide



# Contacting the Instructor

- `ehk@gol.com` `ehkuso@gmail.com` (email)
  - Unusual addresses may be processed as spam
  - Hangul anywhere in the mail often causes problems
  - Japanese text written with Chinese software or sent through Chinese providers is often mangled
  - Always put your name, student number, and course name (“Waseda Political History”) in the SUBJECT line of your email 題目に名前・学籍番号・授業名を必ず書く
  - 日本語使用可能

# Facebook

- EHK-at-Waseda
  - Closed – ask to join
  - Used for emergency announcements
  - Announcement of events that might be of interest to students
  - Joining is optional
  - Advantage of joining – you get automatic email notification of postings

# Week 1

- **Introduction to the Course I – Mechanics**
- **Introduction to the Course II - Approach**

# Week 2

- **Bakumatsu and the Legacy of Tokugawa Era “Feudalism”.**
- **Restoration and Consolidation of the Meiji State.**

# Week 3

- **Defining a Constitutional System & the Emergence of Political Opposition.**
- **From “Transcendental” Governance to the Politics of Compromise.**

# Week 4

- **The Rise of Party Government and “Taisho Democracy”**
- **After Imperialism: Cooperative Diplomacy and Party Rule.**

# Week 5

- **Socialism and Marxism.**
- **The Right Wing: Revolutionary Nationalism & Conservative Nationalism.**

# Week 6

- **The “Period of Crisis” & the Decline of Party Rule.**
- **Militarism and National Mobilization.**



# Week 7

- **The New Order Movement.**
- **The New Order for East Asia.**

# Week 8

- **Decision for War**
- **Wartime Politics and the Decision for Peace**

# Week 9

- **Occupation Reforms: Demilitarization and Democratization.**
- **(The International Military Tribunal for the Far East (IMTFE): Victor's Justice?**

# Week 10

- **Formation of the Postwar Political System.**
- **The 1955 System and LDP Dominance.**

# Week 11

- **Domestic Politics in the Era of High Economic Growth.**
- (SR) “Democracy and High Growth,” in *Sources*, pp. 1082-1100.
- **US-Japan Relations in the Era of High Growth – The Textile Wrangles and the Nixon Shocks**

# Week 12

- **The New Middle-Mass Society & Japanese Democracy – “The Middle” as Myth and Ideology**
- **Japan’s Sagging Middle in an Era of Sagging Growth – “Working Poor” and the Koizumi Reforms**

# Week 13

- **Political History Becomes Political – Remembering and Reinventing the Rape of Nanking**
- **Political History Becomes Political – The “Comfort Women” Issue in US-Japan Relations**

# Week 14

- **The Politics of Apology and Remembrance: The Yasukuni Shrine Issue**
- **The Politics of Japanese “Research” Whaling**



# Week 15

- **Contemporary Japanese Politics in the English Language Press - The DPJ (LDP Lite) “Political Revolution” and the Resurgence of the Real LDP**
- **Submission of Course Work**

# Alternative Lecture Topics

- Depending on the speed at which the course progresses one or more of the following topics may also be covered.
  - The Politics of Population and Childcare
  - The Politics of Immigration Policy
  - The Political Uses of Nihonjinron 日本人論

# Bureaucratic

- Student survey
  - Designed to give the instructor a sense of the students taking this course
    - Prior knowledge
    - Language ability
    - Interest
  - Privacy
    - All questions except name and student number are optional
    - Do not answer any question that deals with something that you regard as private

# That's All Folks!

Web pages:

<http://www2.gol.com/users/ehk/waseda/history3>

<http://ehk.servebeer.com/waseda/history3>

Mail Address:

**ehkuso@gmail.com**

- Always include your name, student number, and course name **IN THE SUBJECT LINE**
- Email may be in either English or Japanese.