POLI381: POLITICS IN JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA
(Mon Sept 9-Tue Dec 3*, 2019)
*Dec 3, Tuesday runs a Monday schedule.

Location:
Lecture Time: M/W 13:05-14:25

Course Description
This course provides an introduction to key issues of contemporary politics in Japan and the South Korea. It will cover the politics and economic development of the Post-WWII Japan and Post-Korean War South Korea. Throughout this course, we will discuss the following themes: How were the contemporary political systems established in Japan and South Korea? How have these systems changed over time? What are the impacts of political institutions on the political and economic development in the two countries? How do social actors and political and economic institutions interact with each other? What are the foreign policymaking strategies in the two countries?

The course is organized into four main topics: political history and legacy, the establishment and changes of political institutions, the state in economy and society, and foreign policymaking.

Learning outcomes
Successful completion of the course will enable students to:
- Be familiar with the development process of democratic institutions in Japan and the South Korea;
- Acquire knowledge on the dynamic interactions between political institutions and economic development;
- Evaluate the role of key players and contentions in democratic politics;
- Locate the priorities of foreign policy making in the two countries;
- Have an informed perspective of the current events and foreign relations of the countries.

Required texts:
For Purchase: Paragrahe bookstore. Both books are reserved in the library (12-hour).

Requirements and Grading
Class Attendance & Participation 10%
In-class Midterm 25%
In-class Final Exam 25%
2 Op-eds 40%
1. **Attendance and Participation (10%)**
   Attendance (5%) will be taken in conferences, starting from the end of the add/drop period. One point will be deducted from your 5 points attendance grade for each absence, unless you are distracted by a serious medical or family emergency (formal proof needed).

2. **In-class Midterm (25%) and Final Exam (25%)**
   Both exams will be composed of short-answer questions (2-3 paragraphs, 3-5 sentences each). If you are distracted by a serious emergency and cannot attend the exam (formal proof needed), please schedule a make-up oral exam with me within one week of the exam date.

3. **Op-ed (40%)**
   You are expected to analyze current events using knowledge acquired in classrooms. There are two 700-word Op-eds assignment, one focusing on domestic politics (25%) and another one foreign policy (15%). You are expected to find related news (within the past 12 months) and provide informed and educated analysis. [More instruction on MyCourse]
   Submission: by Midnight on Due date to Assignment Section on MyCourse Penalty for late submission: For each day you submit the assignment late, 5% of this assignment grade (i.e. 5% * 15 points = 0.75 point/per day) will be deducted.

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**For News on Japan:**
http://www.japantimes.co.jp/ (The Japan Times)
http://thediplomat.com (The Diplomat: online news magazine covering current events in East Asia, including Japan)
http://newslet.iss.u-tokyo.ac.jp/ (Social Science Japan Newsletter, from the University of Tokyo)

**For News on Korea:**
http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/ Korea Herald (a daily newspaper in English)
English version of Korean daily newspapers:
http://english.hani.co.kr progressive Hankyoreh
http://english.chosun.com/ conservative Chosun
http://joongangdaily.joins.com Conservative JoongAng

**Miscellaneous Reminders**
A. For Student Support, Consult the document on student resources.
B. Re-grading policy: Students who wish to contest a grade for an assignment or exam must do so in writing (by email) providing the reasoning behind their challenge to the grade received within two weeks of the day on which the assignments are returned. I will then re-evaluate the assignment or exam, but also reserve the right to raise or lower the grade. Please see the political science student association regarding policy
C. McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).
D. In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.
E. If you have a disability please contact the instructor to arrange a time to discuss your situation. It would be helpful if you contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at 514-398-6009 before you do this.
F. McGill has policies on sustainability, paper use and other initiatives to promote a culture of sustainability at McGill.

Class Schedule and Readings:

Historical Background
Mon/Sept 9 Course Overview

Wed/Sept 11 Japan and South Korea: Political History
S. Korea: Heo & Roehrig, Chapter 1 (until 1980)
Japan: Rosenbluth & Thies, Chapter 2

Watch at your own time: “Recent History of Japan and Korea” (Youtube, 50 mins)

The Political Institutions and Local Politics
Mon/Sept 16 Japan: Democratization
Rosenbluth & Thies, Chapter 2

Sept 17: last day of Add/Drop

Wed/Sept 18 S. Korea: Democratic Transition
Heo & Roehrig, Chapter 2

Mon/Sept 23 Japan: Party Politics
Rosenbluth & Thies, Chapters 4&6.

Wed/Sept 25 S. Korea: Democratic Consolidation, Powerful Presidents, and Weak Political Parties
Heo&Roehrig, Chapters 3

Mon/Sept 30 Japan: Clientelist Politics
Wed/Oct 2 S. Korea: Regions and Memories

Wed/Oct 9 The Developmental State in S. Korea
Heo & Roehrig, Chapter 4

Watch at your own time: Asia Rising pt2, on Youtube (9 mins).

Wed/Oct 16 review
Mon/Oct 14, Thanksgiving
Mon/Oct 21 In-class midterm

Wed/Oct 23 Japan: Financial Crisis and Reform
Rosenbluth & Thies, Chapter 7

Mon/Oct 28 South Korea: Financial Crisis and Reform

Watch at your own time: Asia Rising pt3, on Youtube (1’-3’35”)

Wed/Oct 30 Japan: Interest Groups
Patricia MacLanchlan, “Post Office Politics in Modern Japan: The Postmasters, Iron Triangles,”

**Mon/Nov 4** S. Korea: Civil Society


**Wed/Nov 6** Japan: Civil Society


Nov 10/Sunday midnight (0:00 on Dec 11): 1st Op-ed due on MyCourse

**Mon/Nov 11** Women in Japan and South Korea


**Foreign Policy**

**Wed/Nov 13** Grand Strategies
Rosenbluth & Thies, Chapter 8.
Sung-Hack Kang, *Korea’s Foreign Policy Dilemmas* (Brill 2010), Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 1-33 (e-book available)

**Mon/Nov 18** Bilateral Relations

**Wed/Nov 20** Regional Integration
Heo&Roehrig, Chapter 6&8.

**Mon/Nov 25** The U.S. factor
Heo&Roehrig, Chapter 7.

**Wed/Nov 27** Review
Mon/Dec 2 In-class final exam
Tue/Dec 3: final exam and assignment Q&A

Dec 8/Sunday Midnight (0:00 on Dec 9): 2nd Op-ed due on MyCourse