

PUBLIC POLICY IN JAPAN (SEMINAR) 2 credits (Fall)

日本の公共政策(セミナー) 2単位(秋学期)

Comparative Case Studies

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**Course Description/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome:**

This module explores the key public policy issues through critiquing key literature. It pursues to contemplate selected key public policy issues, with an approach of the comparative case study. The course consists of seminars, in which students present their understanding and analysis, referring to the literature. This module aims at not only international students interested in public policy issues but also domestic students who would like to develop their ability to engage classes in English; those who have difficulty to participate in /understand the course are strongly advised to contact the lecturer.

**Approach:**

All students are strongly required to be present at all sessions of the seminars. As this course depends upon the active participation of the students, attendance and preparation before the class are strongly required. Students who have difficulty to join the course are strongly encouraged to directly contact the lecturer. I will try to offer opportunities to interact with students as interaction will significantly help students understand the issue. Each student will offer two 45-60 min presentations referring to the assigned part of the literature in this course, followed by the discussants' comments and questions. After the presentation, the seminar will discuss and consider the topic under the supervision of the lecturer.

In the presentation each group will have a discussant, who will summarise the presentation and ask a couple of key questions, followed by others. The presenters are expected to exhibit the following: (1) the nature of the chosen topic; (2) their analysis of the topic based on robust reasoning; and (3) their argument drawing on the analysis.

**Goal:**

Students are expected to acquire the factual knowledge of contemporary public policy in Japan, contemplate the key policy challenges of the field, and present and discuss the issues independently. Independent learning is very important: students are expected to independently analyse and understand the characteristics and nature of public policy in the context of contemporary public policy.

**Course Plan:**

1 **Week 1: Introduction**

Week 1 offers the overview of this course, referring to key contemporary policy issues.

2 **Week 2: Governance, Japanese style.**

This session considers a broader picture of how governance has been transformed in Japan in response to its challenges, both general and specific.

(References) Mogaki (2017).

3 **Week 3: Transformation of Japan and its system: government and business.**

Week 3 analyses the transformation in Japan in the 1990s.

(References)

• Vogel (2018): 77-116.

4 **Week 4: Transformation of Japan and its system: the nature and limitation.**

Week 4 extends the discussion of the previous week and considers the nature and limitation of the transformation of Japan in the 1990s. The presentation can compare the crisis in the 1990s and the current political situation with looming aging society and unclear economic prospects.

(References)

• Vogel (2018): 117-150.

5 **Week 5: The electoral system: before the 1994 political reform.**

This session considers the significance of the electoral system in a country's political system by highlighting the SNTV (Single Non-Transferrable Voting) system before 1994 and its impact.

(References) Rosenbluth/Thies (2010): 53-71.

6 **Week 6: The electoral system: after the 1994 political reform.**

This session look into the MMM (Mix Members Majoritarian) voting system and the political development after 1994; in so doing it addresses the nature of the electoral system in shaping political traditions.

(References) Rosenbluth/Thies (2010): 95-122.

7 **Week 7: The regulatory state in Japan.**

This session looks into the development of the Japanese regulatory state through the example of the communications sector.

(References)

• Mogaki (2019): 35-85.

8 **Week 8: The regulatory state in the UK.**

Week 8 turns to the British example of the regulatory state, which offers same sectors and the same period.

(References) Moran (2003) 1-37, 95-123.

9 **Week 9: The welfare state in Japan.**

Week 9 turns to the welfare state in Japan and analyses its characteristics.

(References) Steinmo (2010): 88-148.

10 **Week 10: The welfare state in Sweden.**

Week 10 addresses the Swedish example as another key case of the welfare state.

(References) Steinmo (2010):30-87.

11 **Week 11: The welfare state in the US.**

Week 11 looks into the approach of the US on welfare.

(References) Steinmo (2010):149-205.

12 **Week 12: The migration and Japan: overview and key characteristics.**

Week 12 addresses the key framework of analysis and overview of Japan's migration policy.

(References) Strausz (2019):1-28.

13 **Week 13: The migration and Japan: the two case studies.**

This session addresses the key case studies of the issue: the existing ethnic Koreans and the new foreign labourers in Japan.

(References) Strausz (2019): 29-92.

Other **Essay:**

Students will select a topic related to the issues of this course to write a 2,000 word essay. They can choose whatever topic they like as long as it is related to this course. The word limit includes foot / endnotes and references. The deadline will be announced in the class session of the course.

**Activities in the course:**

• **Group presentation:** A group of students will be assigned to make their respective presentations regarding the given topic. They will have discussants, who will summarise the presentation and ask a couple of key questions, followed by others. The presenters are expected to exhibit the following: (1) the nature of the chosen topic; (2) the presenters' analysis of the topic based on robust reasoning; (3) their own argument drawing on the analysis; and (4) the topics to be discussed in the following session - they can be key questions to be discussed. Each student is expected to make **two** presentations in the course.

**Method of Evaluation:**

**Assessment:**

Essay: 40 %

Attendance: 30 %

Presentation: 30 %

**Textbooks:**

• Mogaki, M. (2017) 'Governance, Japan', in Farazmand, A. (Ed.), *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance*. Berlin: Springer.

• Mogaki, M. (2019) *Understanding Governance in Contemporary Japan: Transformation and the Regulatory State*. Manchester: Manchester UP.

• Moran, M. (2003) *The British Regulatory State: High Modernism and Hyper-Innovation*. Oxford: Oxford UP.

- Rosenbluth, F. M. and Thies, M. F. (2010) *Japan transformed: political change and economic restructuring*. Princeton, NJ/Woodstock: Princeton UP.\*
- Steinmo, S. (2010) *The Evolution of Modern States*. New York: Cambridge UP.\*
- Strausz, M. *Help (Not) Wanted: Immigration Politics in Japan*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.
- Vogel, S. K. (2018) *Marketcraft: How Governments Make Markets Work*. New York: Oxford UP\*.

(\* this literature has a Japanese translation.)

**Reference Books:**

- Gallagher, M. and Michell, P. (eds) (2005) *The Politics of Electoral Systems*. Oxford: Oxford UP.
- Gaunder, A. (2017) *Japanese Politics and Government*. London: Routledge.
- McCargo, D. (2013) *Contemporary Japan* (Contemporary States and Societies). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Neary, I. J. (2019) *The State and Politics in Japan*, Second Edition. Cambridge: Polity.
- Stockwin, J. A. A. (2008) *Governing Japan: Divided Politics in a Resurgent Economy* [4th Edition]. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

**Lecturer's Comments to Students:**

Public policy illuminates the major social challenges in not only Japan but also other countries, both developed and developing. Contemplating this issue offers you clues to understand and address a variety of challenges in society including their future study, jobs, and lives.

**Questions/Comments:**

Students can ask questions to the lecturer by e-mail, Zoom sessions, and in face-to-face sessions. In addition, the lecturer plans to offer the office hour in which students can ask questions on their essays, the contents of the lecture, and the literature.

**NB Given the current situation of COVID, teaching of this course will be offered by online (Zoom). I am sorry to inform this, but hope everyone coming to this course stay safe in Japan, your home country, or wherever.**