

# A Short Introduction to Japanese Politics

## Class One: Introduction

Dept. of Political Science

Mikiko Eto, Ph.D.

# Agenda

1. Purpose

1. Schedule

2. Evaluation (credit)

3. A Bit of Work

Assessing Japanese politics

(Group) discussion

Any question is welcome anytime. Don't hesitate to disturb me!!

## Purpose of This Class

- Providing a brief introduction to Japanese politics
- Consisting of five subjects:
  - Japanese political thought
  - Japanese development in political theories
  - Politics and policy-making process in post-war Japan
  - Japanese women in politics
  - Japanese-style welfare states
- Aiming to understand an overview of Japanese politics and to stimulate your interests in politics in Japan
- Encouraging you to study its more specific subjects according to your interests

# Schedule

date	lecturer's name	subjects
Sept. 29, Oct. 6 and 13	Hiroshi Watanabe	Politics and Political Thought in Tokugawa and Meiji Japan
Oct. 20, 27 and Nov. 10	Atsushi Sugita	Politics and Political Theories in Japan
Nov. 17, 24 and Dec. 1	Jiro Yamaguchi	History of Post-War Japanese Politics
Dec. 8 and 15	Mikiko Eto	Japanese Women in Legislatures
Dec. 22, 12 Jan. 12 and 19 (2017)	Taku Yamamoto	Japanese Welfare State in International Comparison

## Literature relevant to this class

1. There is no text book.
2. Each lecturer will introduce you some references related to his/her subject.
  1. Book on Japanese politics in general;  
Christopher Goto-Jones, *Modern Japan: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press

# A Way of Evaluating Your Attainment Assignment

1. You must write short essays about five subjects each—**five essays** in total.
2. One essay needs to consist of 500 words (400 ~ 500).  
Based on our lectures in the class, you can write it freely according to your interests, ideas or opinions. It can also include your comments and questions on our lectures.
3. The deadline and presentation  
By January 30, 2017, at 17:00  
Sending Mikiko Eto by email attachment  
Email: [eto@hosei.ac.jp](mailto:eto@hosei.ac.jp)

Think about Democracy in Japan and Other Countries!  
Global Democracy Ranking  
(<http://democracyranking.org/wordpress/>)

Index of measuring democracy	Sources of data	Weighing
Political rights	Freedom House	25%
Civil liberties	Freedom House	25%
Global Gender Gap Report	World Economic Forum	25%
Press freedom	Freedom House	10%
Corruption Perceptions Index	Transparency International	10%
Change of the head of government	last 13 years, peaceful	2.5%
Political party change of the head of government	last 13 years, peaceful	2.5%

**Democracy Ranking 2015 (Scores)**

Rank	Country	Total Score	Total Score	Rank Change
2013-2014		2010-2011	2013-2014	loss/gain
1	Norway	87.7	88.1	0
2	Switzerland	86.1	87.0	0
3	Sweden	85.9	86.6	0
4	Finland	85.7	86.0	0
5	Denmark	84.2	85.2	0
6	Netherlands	82.6	83.6	0
7	Germany	80.9	82.0	+1
8	New Zealand	81.7	81.8	-1
9	Ireland	79.5	81.7	+2
10	Belgium	80.1	81.5	-1
11	Austria	79.7	80.1	-1
12	United Kingdom	79.2	80.0	0
13	Australia	79.1	79.7	0
14	France	76.0	79.3	+4
15	Canada	79.1	79.1	-1
16	United States	77.5	77.6	-1
17	Portugal	76.1	76.1	0
18	Slovenia	74.2	76.1	+1
19	Spain	77.3	75.9	-3
20	Japan	73.6	75.3	+1
21	Estonia	71.9	74.5	+3
22	Uruguay	73.1	74.0	0
23	Hong Kong SAR, China	73.8	73.8	-3
24	Israel	72.8	73.0	-1
25	Chile	71.7	72.8	0
26	Lithuania	70.2	71.8	+5
27	Italy	70.6	71.6	+2
28	Costa Rica	70.9	71.5	-1
29	Czech Republic	70.7	71.3	-1
30	Poland	70.3	71.3	0

104	Mali	48.8	41.7	-16
105	Guinea	39.2	41.2	+2
106	China <sup>1</sup>	40.2	40.8	-1
107	Nigeria	40.0	40.6	-1
108	Egypt, Arab Rep. <sup>1</sup>	38.4	40.2	0
109	Togo	37.4	39.8	+1
110	Cote d'Ivoire	30.6	38.9	+2
111	Pakistan	37.8	38.2	-2
112	Syrian Arab Republic <sup>1</sup>	36.4	29.8	-1
113	Yemen, Rep. <sup>1</sup>	26.2	28.3	0
Green: Country is among the 10 best		Green: Within the highest third of all countries	Green: Within the highest third of all countries	Green: Country has gained in rank since the previous period
		Blue: Within the medium third of all countries	Blue: Within the medium third of all countries	White: Country's rank has remained stable over the two periods
Red: Country is among the 10 worst		Red: Within the lowest third of all countries	Red: Within the lowest third of all countries	Red: Country has lost in rank since the previous period

# Short Group Work

## The top 10 words to describe Japanese people according to foreigners

Sourced from “Japan Today”, on Aug. 28, 2013

<https://www.japantoday.com/category/lifestyle/view/the-top-10-words-to-describe-japanese-people-according-to-foreigners>)

1. Polite
2. Punctual
3. Kind
4. Hard-working
5. Respectful
6. Shy
7. Intelligent
8. Grouping
9. Formal
10. Clean

# Make your top 10 words to describe **Japanese politics!**

1. Grouping

2. Group Work

(1) Deciding your group name

(2) Selecting a leader

(3) Discussion

(4) Deciding your top 10 words

3. Presentation

# The Students' Description of Japanese Politics

The Class Students described Japanese politics by the following words  
(The students were divided into three groups)

## Group To-Know

Abe; LDP; Capitalism; Conservative; Stable; Old; Strikes; Patriarchy; Non-Democracy

## Group Cho-Harano

Bureaucracy; Conservatives; Forcible; Strong; Money+ Formal; Class-Centered; Grouping; Emperor

## Group Hase-Wata

Men-Centered; Efficient; Boring; Clean; Unexciting; Decentralized; Irrational; Stable