

COURSE DETAIL

JAPANESE POLITICS

Country

Japan

Host Institution

International Christian University

Program(s)

International Christian University

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science

UCEAP Course Number

123

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

JAPANESE POLITICS

UCEAP Transcript Title

JAPANESE POLITICS

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.00

UCEAP Semester Units

2.70

Course Description

The Japanese post-war political system is somewhat unique and difficult to explain. Between 1955 and 2009, one political party was in power (with only one brief interruption). On the other hand, Japan was the first working democracy in East Asia and a model for many countries in the region. Japan established a democratic system but also developed into the second-largest economy in the world, the largest donor country; and a country with a quasi-European welfare system, a low unemployment rate, and a low crime rate. In the late 1980s, the journalist Karel van Wolferen wondered how this could happen in a country where no one seems to be in charge, the least the prime minister. Others have questioned whether Japan is indeed a democracy or a whether it is a free market economy. This course examines these puzzles; the successes and failures of postwar Japan; why it took such a long time until the first real change of government in 2009; why it failed after only 3 years in power, and what the recent developments mean for Japan. Finally, the course assesses where Japan stands in 2023 and where it might go from here.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

POL234E

Host Institution Course Title

JAPANESE POLITICS

Host Institution Campus

International Christian University

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Politics

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