



<b>TITLE OF THE COURSE:</b>	Politics and Society in Japan since 1945
<b>Course code:</b>	RRS5025
<b>Course group:</b>	C
<b>Faculty:</b>	Faculty of Humanities
<b>Study program:</b>	East Asia Region Studies program
<b>Level:</b>	Master's
<b>Semester:</b>	Spring
<b>ECTS credits:</b>	6
<b>Language of instruction</b>	English
<b>Course lecturer/s:</b>	Linas Didvalis
<b>Short course description:</b>	<p>Japan's transformation after the Second World War is considered a puzzling miracle by many. The country managed to become the first functional democracy in East Asia and a high sought-after model of economic development. How did it all happen and who is standing behind all these achievements? How is Japan organized internally and in what ways the Japanese society interacts with the government? Is Japan truly a democracy and free market economy? This course will focus on these and many other questions, and explore the successes and failures of postwar Japan</p>
<b>Course content:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Introduction to the course and its subject</li><li>2. The Constitution of Japan (1947) and its role</li><li>3. The significance of the LDP</li><li>4. The role of the bureaucracy</li><li>5. Corruption and pork barrel politics</li><li>6. The current political system</li><li>7. Political parties</li></ol>



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	<p>8. Elections</p> <p>9. State-society relations</p> <p>10. Economic and social policy</p> <p>11. Defense policy</p> <p>12. Japan's public diplomacy</p> <p>13. Foreign policy</p> <p>14. Japan today: challenges and future directions</p>
<b><i>Grading and evaluating student work in class and/or at the final exam:</i></b>	Final exam: 50% / Mid-term exam: 20% / Analytical paper and presentation: 30%
<b><i>Required reading and additional study material</i></b>	The course is not based on one specific textbook. Selected mandatory readings (book chapters, academic articles, case studies, etc.) will be uploaded to the Moodle site and assigned to each class.
<b><i>Additional information (if applicable)</i></b>	