
course time: Tuesday and Thursday, 8:00am-9:20am
classroom: SH 203
e-mail: michael.strausz@tcu.edu
office hours: Wednesday 10:00am-12:00pm, Thursday 1:30pm-2:30pm
office: Sadler 205e
course webpage: <http://personal.tcu.edu/michaelstrausz/30503>

Course Description and Objectives: This class will introduce you to Japan's postwar political system. In addition to learning how the political system works in the abstract, we will also examine the way that the political system has actually functioned, particularly in regards to the relationship between the state and society, economic governance, and foreign policy. This class aims to deepen your understanding of current events in Japan, as well as to strengthen your ability to evaluate contemporary political issues and to talk and write about those issues in an informed and coherent manner.

Expectations and Course Policies:

1. Prepare for each class by carefully reading the assigned materials before coming to class. If it seems that you are not doing the readings, I will give pop quizzes that will be considered as a part of your participation grade.
2. Regularly read a newspaper with good coverage of events in Japan. I recommend *The Japan Times*, which you can read for free online. If you can read Japanese, you are more than welcome to read *Asahi Shimbun* or *Yomiuri Shimbun*, but you are not required to read Japanese for this course. We will have a quick review of current events every day, and if it seems that you don't know what is going on in Japanese politics, I will give pop quizzes on that will be considered as a part of your participation grade.
3. Attendance Policy: Come to class on time, and stay for the duration. I take attendance, and I will notice if you miss class.
4. Statement on Disability Services at TCU: Texas Christian University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 regarding students with disabilities. Eligible students seeking accommodations should contact the Coordinator for Students with Disabilities in the Center for Academic Services located in Sadler Hall, 11. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the Coordinator as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Further information can be obtained from the Center for Academic Services, TCU Box 297710, Fort Worth, TX 76129, or at (817) 257-7486.
5. Academic Misconduct (See Section 3.4 from the Student Handbook) – I expect that the work that you turn in will be your own. Any act that violates the academic integrity of the institution is considered academic misconduct, and I will not hesitate to bring suspected academic misconduct to the proper authorities.

Grading: Grades in this course will be determined as follows:
Midterm Exam (**October 21**): 20%

Final (**December 16, 8:00-10:30**): 25%
Research Paper (**Due December 9 at the beginning of class**): 30%
Participation: 25%

Grades are determined on a 100 point scale as follows:

A: 93.5 and above	B: 82.5-86.4	C: 72.5-76.4	D: 62.5-66.4
A-: 89.5-93.4	B-: 79.5-82.4	C-: 69.5-72.4	D-: 59.5-62.4
B+: 86.5-89.4	C+: 76.5-79.4	D+: 66.5-69.4	F: 59.4 and below

I will use the +/- system for all students, and the TCU registrar will automatically convert the grades of students not under the +/- system to the old system

Makeup exams and paper deadline extensions will not be allowed except in the cases of university-excused absences or illnesses, and proper documentation is required.

If you feel that you have been graded unfairly on any course assignment, please wait 24 hours after the assignment is returned and then contact the TA with a typed statement about why you believe you were graded unfairly. This statement must provide substantive reasons why you believe that you were graded unfairly. If after the TA you still believe that you were graded unfairly after the TA has reevaluated your assignment, you may bring the assignment to the instructor. The appeal process must be started one week after the exam/homework was returned.

Research Paper: The research paper will give you an opportunity to apply some of the concepts you are learning in class to a topic in Japanese politics that interests you. A detailed assignment will be distributed in class on **August 28**. You will be required to turn in a topic on **September 16** and a preliminary thesis statement, bibliography, and outline on **October 7**. If you submit a topic and a thesis/bibliography/outline that is on time and satisfactory, you will receive an A for 1/6 of the research paper grade (5% of your overall grade). If the first draft of the topic and thesis/bibliography/outline is not satisfactory, you are welcome to submit additional drafts for credit. However, if you do not submit the first draft of the topic and thesis/bibliography/outline on time, you will not be able to receive credit (although you are still welcome to submit drafts of your topics and thesis/outline/bibliography to get feedback).

Although you are not required to submit a rough draft of the research paper, you are welcome to do so on or before **December 2**. In addition to submitting a rough draft to get feedback from me, I also encourage you to exchange drafts of research papers among yourselves. Reading your colleagues' papers and listening to their feedback on your paper are both useful exercises. Both will help improve your writing skills, your knowledge of Japanese politics, and your performance in this class.

You are required to turn in a hard copy of the research paper, and papers are due at the beginning of class on **December 9**.

Late research papers will be penalized 10% per day late. Once grades have been officially submitted for the course, late assignments will no longer be accepted.

Participation: One of the goals of this class is to give students the skills to talk about Japanese politics in a coherent and well-informed manner. In order for you to build that skill, I ask you to actively participate in class discussions. This means coming to class prepared to discuss assigned readings and current events. This also means being respectful when others are talking, as well as taking others' ideas seriously (even when you disagree). When it comes to class discussion, quality is more important than quantity; I am not looking for students to compete with one another to dominate the discussion.

In addition to general class discussions, each student in this class will participate in a debate on a topic related to Japanese politics. There will be a total of three debates throughout the semester. Your performance in the debate will account for 20% of your participation grade (5% of your overall grade). More information about the debates (including the topics) will be distributed in class on **September 2**.

Office Hours: I encourage students to take advantage of my office hours in order to ask questions about course materials or to chat about issues related to the course or political science more generally. Also, if you have any comments about or problems with the course itself I encourage you to share them in my office hours.

If you would like to get in touch with me to ask a question or schedule an appointment, I encourage you to e-mail me.

Course Materials: The following book is required. It is available at the TCU bookstore, but feel free to buy copies at other bookstores or online. Readings that aren't in this book will be available for purchase at the political science department (Sadler 205; be sure to bring cash):

Jacob Schlesinger, *Shadow Shoguns: The Rise and Fall of Japan's Postwar Political Machine*.

Schedule:

8/26 *Introduction*

Unit 1: History and Structure of Postwar Japanese Government

8/28 *1868-1968: From National Isolation to Meiji Restoration to Militarism to Democracy*

Schlesinger, pp. 10-90.

9/2 *The Liberal Democratic Party is neither Liberal nor Democratic?*

Schlesinger, pp. 93-155.

9/4 *The Bubble Inflates*

Schlesinger, pp. 159-227.

9/9 *The Bubble Bursts*

Schlesinger, pp. 231-285.

9/11 *What We're Talking About When We Talk About Postal Reform*
Maclachlan, Patricia L. (2006). "Storming the Castle: The Battle for Postal Reform in Japan." Social Science Japan Journal 9 (1): 1-18 (Reader).

9/16 *The Executive in Japanese Politics*
Johnson, Chalmers (1975). "Japan: Who Governs? An Essay on Official Bureaucracy." Journal of Japanese Studies 2(1): 1-28 (Reader).
Research paper topic due at the beginning of class.

9/18 *The Judiciary*
O'Brien, David M. and Yasuo Ogoshi (1996). To Dream of Dreams: Religious Freedom and Constitutional Politics in Postwar Japan. Honolulu, University of Hawai'i Press, pp. 179-209 (Reader).

Unit 2: State and Society Relations in Japan

9/23 *The State and Civil Society in Japan*
Kawato, Yuko and Robert Pekkanen (2008). Civil Society and Democracy: Reforming Nonprofit Organization Law. Democratic Reform in Japan. S. L. Martin and G. Steel. Boulder, CO, Lynne Rienner: 193-210 (Reader).

9/25 *Uncivil Society*
Murakami, Haruki (2001). Underground. New York, Vintage International, pp. 247-302 (Reader).

9/30 **Class cancelled**

10/2 *NIMBY (Not in My Backyard) Politics*
Aldrich, Daniel P. (2008). Site Fights: Divisive Facilities and Civil Society in Japan and the West. Ithaca, Cornell University Press, pp. 119-151 (Reader).

10/7 *Minorities in Japan*
Strausz, Michael (2006-2007). "Minorities and Protest in Japan: The Politics of the Fingerprinting Refusal Movement." Pacific Affairs 79(4): 641-656 (Reader).

Research paper thesis/outline/bibliography due at the beginning of class.

10/9 **Class cancelled for Fall Break**

10/14 *Local/National Relations*
Nathan, John (2004). Japan Unbound: a Volatile Nation's Quest for Pride and Purpose. Boston, Houghton Mifflin, pp. 169-202 (Reader).

10/16 *Women and Politics in Japan*
LeBlanc, Robin M. (1999). Bicycle Citizens: The Political World of the

Japanese Housewife. Berkeley, University of California Press, pp. 121-163 (Reader).

10/21 **Midterm**

10/23 *The State, Society, and Welfare in Japan*
Estévez-Abe, Margarita (2003). State-Society Partnerships in the Japanese Welfare State. The State of Civil Society in Japan. F. J. Schwartz and S. J. Pharr. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press: 154-172 (Reader).

Unit 3: Political Economy in Japan

10/28 *Industrial Policy and the 1955 System*
Anchordoguy, Marie (1988). "Mastering the Market: Japanese Government Targeting of the Computer Industry." International Organization 42 (3): 509-543 (Reader).

10/30 *The End of the 1955 System*
Mulgan, Aurelia George (2002). Japan's Failed Revolution: Koizumi and the Politics of Economic Reform, Asia Pacific Press, 96-128 (Reader).

11/4 *Labor, Management, and the State*
Kume, Ikuo (1998). Disparaged Success: Labor Politics in Postwar Japan. Ithaca, Cornell University Press, pp. 73-106 (Reader).

11/6 *The Political Economy of Sushi*
Bestor, Theodore C. (2004). Tsukiji: The Fish Market at the Center of the World. Berkeley, University of California Press, pp. 50-90 (Reader).

Unit 4: Japan's Foreign Policy

11/11 *International Trade Politics*
Davis, Christina L. (2004). "International Institutions and Issue Linkage: Building Support for International Trade Liberalization." American Political Science Review 98 (1): 153-169 (Reader).

11/13 *Is a Self-Defense Force 'War Potential'?*
Hughes, Llewelyn (2007). "Why Japan Will Not Go Nuclear (Yet): International and Domestic Constraints on the Nuclearization of Japan." International Security 31 (4): 67-96 (Reader).

11/18 *Japan and the War on Terror*
Leheny, David (2006). Think Global, Fear Local: Sex, Violence, and Anxiety in Contemporary Japan. Ithaca, Cornell University Press, pp. 115-180 (Reader).

- 11/20 *Japan's Dangerous Neighborhood?*
Assigned reading to be announced.
- 11/25 *Japan and the Global Environment*
Tiberghien, Yves and Miranda A. Schreurs (2007). "High Noon in Japan: Embedded Symbolism and Post-2001 Kyoto Protocol Politics." Global Environmental Politics 7 (4) (Reader).
- 11/27 **Class cancelled for Thanksgiving**
- 12/2 *The Politics of Overseas Development Aid*
Gilson, Julie (2007). "Building Peace or Following the Leader? Japan's Peace Consolidation Diplomacy." Pacific Affairs 8 (1): 27-47 (Reader).
Last day to turn in rough drafts of research papers to Dr. Strausz
- 12/4 *International Human Rights Norms in Japan*
Assigned reading to be announced.
- 12/9 *Conclusion*
No assigned reading.
Research Paper due at the beginning of class.
- 12/16 **Final exam, 8:00-10:30**