
course time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:20

classroom: Reed 221

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office hours: Tuesdays, 12:50 pm – 1:50 pm, Thursdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

office: Scharbauer 2007F

Course Description and Objectives: Japan has undergone tremendous transformations in the last 60 years. Between 1944 and 1954, Japan changed from fascist military state to history's first victim of nuclear weapons to occupied power to vibrant democracy. By the 1980s, Japan's economy had completed a transformation from utter devastation after World War Two into one of the largest economies in the world. More recently, Japanese politics has seen another major transformation, as the victory by the Democratic Party of Japan in the 2009 House of Representatives election ended more than 50 years of domination by the Liberal Democratic Party. In this course, we will examine both the causes and effects of these changes. We will also examine the postwar political system in detail. In addition to learning how the political system works in the abstract, we will examine the way that the 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—including Japan's response to the March 11, 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster—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. *Assigned readings:* Prepare for each class by carefully reading the assigned materials, and bring the day's assigned reading to class with you.
2. *Current events:* Regularly (at least once before each class period) read an online newspaper that focuses on Japan (there are several useful links in the LearningStudio "webliography"). If the newspaper that you are reading does not have much coverage of Japanese politics on a particular day, supplement your reading by looking at one or more of the Japanese politics blogs that are linked from the course's LearningStudio site.
3. *Attendance Policy:* Come to class on time, and stay for the duration. If you miss a class where an in-class activity or pop quiz was administered, you will receive a grade of zero unless the absence was an Official University Absence or unless you have a note from a medical professional or Campus Life indicating that you were ill. If you leave early on a day when you submitted work (without prior approval) you will receive a grade of zero on that work.
4. *Technology Policy:* Students wishing to use computers, smartphones, recording devices, or other electronic devices in class are required to come to my office hours to discuss acceptable classroom use of technology and to sign a contract indicating that you will use those devices responsibly. Students using technology without permission or in violation of their contract will be asked to leave class on that day, and will receive a grade of zero for any quizzes or in-class activities that were scheduled for that day.

5. *Extra Credit:* If there are events at TCU or in the community that are related to this course, I may decide to grant extra credit to students who attend and write a brief paper about the event. If I decide to make this kind of extra credit assignment, specifics will be emailed out to all students enrolled in the class (so check your TCU email!). These extra credit papers will usually count as the equivalent of one quiz, although the specific weight of the paper will be mentioned on the assignment.
6. *Turning it in:* Students will turn in all papers using www.turnitin.com, unless otherwise noted. I will provide more specific information about this when the first paper assignment is distributed in class.
7. *Deadlines:* Deadlines for assignments are strictly enforced. A paper submitted after the deadline will lose 10 points (out of 100) if it is submitted within 24 hours after the deadline, 20 points (out of 100) if it is submitted within 48 hours after the deadline, 30 points (out of 100) if it is submitted within 72 hours after the deadline, etc. So, for example, if a paper deadline is 10 am on Monday and you submit your paper at 11 am, you will automatically lose 10 points.
8. *Student Disability Services:* 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 of Student Disabilities Services 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.
9. *Academic Misconduct:* I expect that the work that you turn in will be your own. Students determined to have committed academic misconduct will face penalties including (but not limited to) a grade of zero on the related assignment. I will not hesitate to bring suspected academic misconduct to the proper authorities. For more information on TCU's academic misconduct policy, see Section 3.4 from the Student Handbook.

Grading: Grades in this course will be determined as follows:

Reading Quizzes (at least 8) and other in-class exercises: 25%
 First Paper (Due **October 4 at 2:00 pm**): 15%
 Second Paper (Due **November 3 at 2:00 pm**): 15%
 Final Paper (Due **December 15 at 5:30 pm**): 30%
 Paper about in-class debate: 15%

Grades are determined on this 100-point scale:

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.

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 me 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. The appeal process must be started one week after the exam/homework was returned.

Quizzes: We will have at least eight quizzes in this class. The quizzes will mostly cover assigned readings, but might also touch on current events in Japanese politics and/or materials that we have covered in class. If you do the readings, follow current events, and pay attention in class, your quiz grade should end up being quite high. Quizzes will take place at the beginning of class, and no extra time will be granted to students arriving late. If you miss a class because of a properly documented illness or an Official University Absence, you have one week to either visit my office hours or make an appointment with me to make up your quiz. If you wait more than one week to see me after missing a class where a quiz was given, you will receive a grade of zero for the missed quiz. Students who miss classes for reasons other than Official University Absences or properly documented illnesses will receive a grade of zero for missed quizzes.

Papers: There will be four papers assigned in this class. One of these papers will be a reflection paper about an in-class debate. Each student will be required to participate in an in-class debate (topics and dates will be assigned later in the semester). One week after your in-class debate, you will be required to turn in a reflection paper about your experiences preparing for and participating in the debate. If you miss the debate, you will not be permitted to turn in a reflection paper. The assignment will be distributed at the same time that the first debate topics are distributed.

For the other three papers, you will be required to analyze issues that we have discussed in class. I will expect you to give these issues some thought on your own, rather than simply reproducing what we have covered in class. More specific assignments will be distributed later in the semester.

If you would prefer, you have the option to write a research paper instead of writing these three analysis papers. You are also permitted to revise and lengthen a research paper that you have written for another class. For example, if you wrote a research paper for another class about British environmental policy, you can add a section about Japanese environmental policy, and a section that compares Britain's policy with Japan's. If you are interested in writing or revising and expanding a research paper, you are required to see me during the first two weeks of class to discuss possible topics. If I don't hear from you by **September 9**, you will be required to write the three analysis papers.

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 books are required. They are available at the TCU bookstore, but feel free to buy copies at other bookstores or online. Readings that aren't in these books will be available online, through the course's LearningStudio site (log in to tcuglobal.edu, go to the "Doc Sharing" section, and then view "Assigned Readings"):

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

Robin LeBlanc, *Bicycle Citizens: The Political World of the Japanese Housewife*

Leonard Schoppa, *Race for the Exits: the Unraveling of Japan's System of Social Protections*.

Schedule:

23-Aug *Introduction*

25-Aug *The Sendai Earthquake, the Tsunami, and the Fukushima Disaster*
The quakebook community (2011). 2:46: *Aftershocks: Stories from the Japanese Earthquake*, pp. 6-20.
Beam, Christopher (2011). "Stop Thief, Thank you: Why So Little Looting in Japan? It's Not Just About Honesty." <http://slate.com/id/2288514/>.

30-Aug **Unit 1: Japan's Political Parties and Political System**
400 Years in 80 Minutes: A Primer on Modern Japanese History
Schlesinger, pp. 10-45.

1-Sep **Class cancelled because Dr. Strausz will be at a conference**

6-Sep *Is the LDP Neither Liberal, Democratic, nor a Party?*
Schlesinger, pp. 46-106.

8-Sep *Political Parties and Recent Elections in Japan*
Schlesinger, pp. 107-137.

13-Sep *The Bubble that Burst*
Schlesinger, pp. 138-201.

15-Sep *Japan: Who Governs?*
Schlesinger, pp. 202-227.

20-Sep *Is Ichiro Ozawa the Forrest Gump of Japanese Politics?*
Schlesinger, pp. 231-285.

22-Sep *Local Governments in Japan*
No assigned reading.

- 27-Sep *First Debate*
No assigned reading.
- 29-Sep **Class cancelled for Rosh Hashanah**
- 4-Oct *More on Local Government*
First paper due via turnitin.com at 2:00 pm
No assigned reading.
- 6-Oct **Unit 2: State and Society in Japan**
State, Society, and Bicycle Citizens
LeBlanc, pp. 1-27.
- 11-Oct **Class cancelled for Fall Break**
- 13-Oct *What is LeBlanc up to?*
LeBlanc, pp. 28-60.
- 18-Oct *Citizenship in Japan*
Leblanc, pp. 61-88.
- 20-Oct *Social Movements in Japan*
LeBlanc, pp. 89-120.
- 25-Oct *Members without Advocates?*
LeBlanc, pp. 121-163.
- 27-Oct *Reflections on LeBlanc*
LeBlanc, pp. 164-203.
- 1-Nov *Second debate*
No assigned reading.
- 3-Nov **Unit 3: Japan's Political Economy**
The Origins and Unraveling of the "Miracle"
Second paper due via turnitin.com at 2:00 pm.
Schoppa, pp. 1-16.
- 8-Nov *The 1955 Model of Political Economy*
Schoppa, pp. 17-35.
- 10-Nov *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty*
Schoppa, pp. 36-66.
- 15-Nov *Japan's Welfare State*
Schoppa, pp. 67-97.

- 17-Nov *Reflections on Schoppa*
Schoppa, pp. 98-112, 199-212.
- 22-Nov *Third debate*
No assigned reading.
- 24-Nov **Class cancelled because of Thanksgiving**
- 29-Nov **Unit 4: Japan and the World**
Japan's Soft Power
Leheny, David (2006). A Narrow Place to Cross Swords: Soft Power and the Politics of Japanese Popular Culture in Asia. Beyond Japan: The Dynamics of East Asian Regionalism. P. J. Katzenstein and T. Shiraishi. Ithaca, Cornell University Press: viii, 325 p.
- 1-Dec *Apologies in International Politics*
Lind, Jennifer M. (2009). "The Perils of Apology: What Japan Shouldn't Learn from Germany." Foreign Affairs 88(3): 132-147.
- 6-Dec *Conclusion*
No assigned reading.
- 15-Dec **Final paper due via turnitin.com at 5:30 pm.**