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**course time:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11:00am-11:50am

**classroom:** Beasley Hall 107

**e-mail:** michael.strausz@tcu.edu

**office hours:** Thursdays, 10:00am-11:00am; Fridays, 12:00pm-1:50pm, or by appointment

**office:** Scharbauer 2007F

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**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 and economic governance. 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. Although we will focus carefully on the workings of Japanese politics, this class ultimately aims to deepen your understanding of how political systems function more generally.

**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 the absence was due to properly documented illnesses or properly documented personal/family emergencies. 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 both attend and write a brief paper about the event. If I decide to make this kind of extra credit assignment, the specifics will be emailed out to all students enrolled in the class (so check your TCU email!).
6. *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 between 24 and 48 hours after the deadline, 30 points (out of 100) if it is submitted between 48 and 72 hours after the deadline, etc. So, for example, if a paper deadline is 10am on Monday and you submit your paper at 11am, you will automatically lose 10 points. Once grades have been officially submitted for the course, late assignments will no longer be accepted.
7. *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.
8. *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%

Short Analysis Paper: 15%

Debate reflection paper: 15%

Final research paper (9-11 pages): 35%

Oral presentation of research findings: 10%

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 Official University Absences, properly documented illnesses, or properly documented personal/family emergencies.

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 Official University Absences, properly documented illnesses, or properly documented personal/family emergencies, 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, properly documented illnesses, or properly documented personal/family emergencies will receive a grade of zero for missed quizzes.

**Short Analysis Paper:** At several points throughout the semester, I will distribute short (3-4 page) analysis paper prompts that ask you to think about things that we have read about and/or things that we have discussed in class. You are required to write on one of these prompts. Should you decide to submit more than one paper throughout the semester, only the highest grade will count toward your final grade. You will also have one week after getting an analysis paper back to revise the paper and resubmit it for a better grade (assuming that the original analysis paper was turned in on time and was the appropriate length). Late resubmissions will not be accepted.

**Debate Reflection Paper:** Each student in this class will be required to participate in an in-class debate (topics and dates will be assigned later in the semester). Approximately 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 (specific deadlines will be indicated later in the semester). If you miss the debate (except in the case of Official University Absences, properly documented illnesses, or properly documented family/personal emergencies), you will not be permitted to turn in a reflection paper. If you do have do miss a debate because of an Official University Absence, a properly documented illnesses, or a properly documented family/personal emergencies, you are required to meet with me within one week of the missed debate so that we can work out an alternate assignment. If you miss a debate but fail to meet with me within one week of the debate, you will receive a grade of zero on the debate reflection paper.

**Final Research Paper:** Students will complete a research project regarding a topic in Japanese politics that interests them. This research project will have several components. First, students are required to meet with me in my office in the first three weeks of class to discuss possible

research paper topics. I will distribute a sign up sheet during the first week of class to make sure everyone has a meeting scheduled. Second, students are required to turn in a rough draft of their topic and thesis statement by **September 28**. Third, students are required to submit an annotated bibliography by **October 31**. Each of these three components—the meeting with me, the rough draft of the topic, and the annotated bibliography—is worth 1% of your final grade (meaning that the research paper itself is actually worth 32%). Each of these components will be graded on a credit/no credit basis, meaning if you meet with me as scheduled and turn in an acceptable topic and bibliography, you will get 100% on 3% of your final grade. Each component is also a requirement to turn in the research paper, meaning that I will not accept research papers from people that have not met with me, had a topic approved, and had an annotated bibliography approved. Missed meetings will result in a grade of zero for 1% of your final grade (except in the case of properly documented illness/family/personal emergency). Similarly, late topics and annotated bibliographies will each result in grades of zero for 1% of your final grade. Specific assignments for the research paper and for each of these components of the research paper will be distributed early in the semester. The final version of the research paper should be 9-11 page, and it will be due at **2:00 pm on Friday, December 14**.

**Oral Presentation of Research Findings:** During the last two weeks of class, each student will be required to make a 10-15 minute oral presentation on their research findings. Specific assignments will be distributed later in the semester.

**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*.

Mary Alice Haddad, *Building Democracy in Japan*

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:**

20-Aug *Introduction*

No assigned reading

- 22-Aug *Three-Eleven*  
Dudden, Alexis. "The Ongoing Disaster." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 71, no. 02  
(2012): 345-59.  
Also, look over this class's ecollege site (particularly the webliography)

### **Unit 1: Japan's Postwar Democracy**

- 24-Aug *400 Years in 50 Minutes: A Primer on Modern Japanese History*  
Schlesinger, pp. 10-45
- 27-Aug *How Does Japan Select Its Leaders?*  
Schlesinger, pp. 46-90
- 29-Aug *The Liberal Democratic Party is not Liberal, Democratic, or a Party*  
Schlesinger, pp. 93-130
- 31-Aug *Political Parties and Recent Elections in Japan*  
Schlesinger, pp. 131-155
- 3-Sep Labor Day
- 5-Sep *The Bubble that Burst*  
Schlesinger, pp. 159-192
- 7-Sep *Japan: Who Governs?*  
Schlesinger, pp. 193-227
- 10-Sep *Is Ichiro Ozawa the Forrest Gump of Japanese Politics?*  
Schlesinger pp. 231-278
- 12-Sep *Wrapping up Schlesinger*  
Schlesinger pp. 279-285
- 14-Sep FIRST DEBATE  
No assigned reading
- 17-Sep Class cancelled for Rosh Hashanah

### **Unit 2: Japanese Democracy from the Bottom-Up**

- 19-Sep *Japanese democracy beyond Tanaka Kakuei*  
Haddad, pp. 1-28  
**First short analysis paper due at 11:00am**
- 21-Sep *Tipping points and democratization*  
Haddad, pp. 29-45

- 24-Sep *Prewar democracy?*  
Haddad, pp. 46-72
- 26-Sep Class cancelled for Yom Kippur
- 28-Sep *Democracy in local institutions*  
Haddad, pp. 73-101
- 1-Oct *Democracy and the NGO*  
Haddad, pp. 102-128
- 3-Oct *Where is culture in all of this?*  
Haddad, pp. 129-153
- 5-Oct Class cancelled for the Southwest Conference on Asian Studies
- 8-Oct Fall Break
- 10-Oct *Women and democracy in Japan*  
Haddad, pp. 154-181
- 12-Oct *Wrapping up Haddad*  
Haddad, pp. 182-195
- 15-Oct SECOND DEBATE  
No assigned reading
- 17-Oct *Senkyo*  
No assigned reading
- 19-Oct *More Senkyo*  
No assigned reading

### **Unit 3: State and Society in Japan**

- 22-Oct *What is LeBlanc up to?*  
LeBlanc, pp. 1-27  
**Second short analysis paper due at 11:00am**
- 24-Oct *Citizenship in Japan*  
Leblanc, pp. 61-88
- 26-Oct *Volunteering and politics*  
LeBlanc, pp. 89-120
- 29-Oct *Social Movements in Japan*  
LeBlanc, pp. 121-163

31-Oct *Gender and the LDP*  
LeBlanc, pp. 164-193

2-Nov *Wrapping up Leblanc*  
LeBlanc, pp. 195-203

5-Nov THIRD DEBATE  
No assigned reading

#### **Unit 4: Japanese Political Economy**

7-Nov *Japanese political economy*  
Schoppa, pp. 1-16

**Third short analysis paper due at 11:00am**

9-Nov *Exit, voice and loyalty*  
Schoppa, pp. 17-35

12-Nov *Take a ride on the convoy*  
Schoppa, pp. 36-66

14-Nov *The convoy falls apart*  
Schoppa, pp. 67-97

16-Nov *“Hollowing out” and Japanese public policy*  
Schoppa, pp. 98-111

19-Nov *Do these exceptions undermine Schoppa's argument?*  
Schoppa, pp. 183-198

21&23- Thanksgiving break  
Nov

26-Nov *Wrapping up Schoppa*  
Schoppa, pp. 199-212

28-Nov *Student research presentations*  
**Fourth short analysis paper due at 11:00am**  
No assigned reading

30-Nov *Student research presentations*  
No assigned reading

3-Dec *Student research presentations*  
No assigned reading

5-Dec *Conclusion*  
No assigned reading

14-Dec **Final research paper due at 2:00pm**