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**course time:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 2:00pm-2:50am  
**classroom:** Scharbauer 4002  
**e-mail:** michael.strausz@tcu.edu  
**office hours:** Thursdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Fridays, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  
**office:** Scharbauer 2007F

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**Course Description and Objectives:** Japan has undergone tremendous transformations in the last 60 years: from dictatorship to democracy, from economic devastation to the second largest economy in the world, and, more recently, the Japanese political system moved away from more than 50 years of domination by one political party. 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, and bring the day's assigned reading to class with you (if you read it on a laptop computer, than bring your computer).
2. Regularly (at least once before each class – so three times per week) read an online newspaper that focuses on Japan (there are several useful links on ecollege). If the newspaper that you are reading does not have much coverage of Japan on a particular day, than supplement your reading by looking at one or more of the Japanese politics blogs that are linked from the course's ecollege site (from the course's site on tcuglobal.edu, click the tab that says "webliography").
3. Attendance Policy: Come to class on time, and stay for the duration. I take attendance, and I will notice if you miss class. If you miss a class where an in-class activity or pop quiz was administered, you will receive a grade of zero unless you produce documentation from campus life indicating that the absence was excused. 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. 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 Services 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:

Reading Quizzes (at least 8) and other in-class exercises: 25%  
First Paper (Due **March 1** at the beginning of class): 30%  
Second Paper (Due **April 28** at the beginning of class): 30%  
Paper about in-class debate: 15%

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.

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.

Assignments are due at the *beginning of class*. I am strict about enforcing this rule. Late assignments will be penalized 10 points (out of 100) per date late. Once grades have been officially submitted for the course, late assignments will no longer be accepted.

**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.

**Papers:** There will be three 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 (unless your absence is excused by campus life). The assignment will be distributed at the same time that the first debate topics are distributed.

For the other two 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 two 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 **January 27**, you will be required to write the two analysis papers (i.e. you are not permitted to decide that you are writing a research paper only after you have failed to get your first analysis paper in on time).

**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 ecollege 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*.

Robert Pekkanen, *Japan's Dual Civil Society: Members Without Advocates*

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

**Schedule:**

1/11      *Introduction*

**Unit 1: History and Structure of Postwar Japanese Government**

1/13      *What the Democrats Want*

The Democratic Party of Japan's Platform of Government: read pp. 1-18, and skim the rest.

1/15      *1868-1968: From National Isolation to Meiji Restoration to Militarism to Democracy*

Schlesinger, pp. 10-45.

1/18      **Class cancelled for Martin Luther King day**

1/20      *Electoral Systems and Electoral Reform*

Schlesinger, pp. 46-90.

1/22      *The Liberal Democratic Party is Neither Liberal, Democratic, Nor a Party?*

Schlesinger, pp. 93-130.

- 1/25 *Other Parties in Japan*  
Schlesinger, pp. 131-155.
- 1/27 *The Dramatic Elections of 2005 and 2009*  
Schlesinger, pp. 159-192.
- 1/29 *Tanaka's Disciples*  
Schlesinger, pp. 193-227.
- 2/1 *Japan: Who Governs?*  
Schlesinger, pp. 231-278.q
- 2/3 *Reflections on Shadow Shoguns*  
Schlesinger, pp. 279-285.
- 2/5 **Class cancelled because of SMU Asian Studies Symposium**

## **Unit 2: State and Society in Japan**

- 2/8 *The State and Civil Society in Japan*  
Pekkanen, pp. 1-46.
- 2/10 *Women and Civil Society in Japan*  
Pekkanen, pp. 47-84.
- 2/12 *Foreigners and the Japanese State*  
Pekkanen, pp. 85-104.
- 2/15 *Neighborhood Associations*  
Pekkanen, pp. 104-129.
- 2/17 *Political Parties and Civil Society*  
Pekkanen, pp. 130-158.
- 2/19 *Reflections on Dual Civil Societies*  
Pekkanen, pp. 159-187.
- 2/22 *Uncivil Society*  
Murakami, Haruki (2001). *Underground*. New York, Vintage International,  
pp. 247-302 (Reader).
- FIRST PAPER ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS**
- 2/24 **FIRST DEBATE**  
No assigned reading.
- 2/26 Local Elections in Japan  
*No assigned reading.*

- 3/1 More on Local Elections in Japan  
*No assigned readings.*  
**FIRST PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**

### **Unit 3: The Crisis of Convoy Capitalism**

- 3/3 *The 1955 Model of Political Economy*  
Schoppa, pp. 1-16.
- 3/5 *Exit, Voice, and Loyalty*  
Schoppa, pp. 17-35.
- 3/8 *Japanese-Style Welfare*  
Schoppa, pp. 36-66.
- 3/10 *The End of the 1955 Model*  
Schoppa, pp. 67-97
- 3/12 *Labor and Management in Japan*  
Schoppa, pp. 98-111.
- 3/15-3/19 **SPRING BREAK**
- 3/22 *Failed Attempts at Economic Reform*  
Schoppa, pp. 112-149.
- 3/24 *Women, Exit, and Voice in Japan*  
Schoppa, pp. 150-182.
- 3/26 *The Political Economy of Japan's Declining Population*  
Schoppa, pp. 183-198.
- 3/29 *Reflections on Racing for Exits*  
Schoppa, pp. 199-212.
- 3/31 **SECOND DEBATE**  
No assigned reading.
- 4/2 **Class is cancelled for Good Friday.**

### **Unit 4: Japan's Foreign Policy**

- 4/5 *The US/Japan Alliance*  
Yukio Hatoyama, "Japan Must Shake Off US-Style Globalization"
- 4/7 **GUEST LECTURER: ROBERT PEKKANEN**  
No assigned reading.

- 4/9 *Japan and International Trade*  
Davis, Christina L. (2004). "International Institutions and Issue Linkage: Building Support for International Trade Liberalization." American Political Science Review 98 (1): 153-169.
- 4/12 *Japan and Nuclear Weapons*  
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.
- 4/14 *Japan and the Environment*  
Tiberghien, Yves and Miranda A. Schreurs (2007). "High Noon in Japan: Embedded Symbolism and Post-2001 Kyoto Protocol Politics." Global Environmental Politics.
- 4/16 *Soft Power: Are Anime and Manga "Powerful"?*  
Leheny, David. "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. Eds. Peter J. Katzenstein and Takashi Shiraishi. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006.
- 4/19 *The Legacy of WWII*  
Lind, Jennifer M. "The Perils of Apology: What Japan Shouldn't Learn from Germany." Foreign Affairs 88.3 (2009): 132-47.
- 4/21 **THIRD DEBATE**  
No assigned reading  
**SECOND PAPER ASSIGNMENT DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS**
- 4/23 **Class cancelled because Dr. Strausz will attend the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting**
- 4/26 *Evaluating the DPJ*  
Reread the DPJ's Platform of Government.
- 4/28 *Conclusion*  
No assigned reading.  
**SECOND PAPER DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS**