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**course time:** Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11:00am-11:50am  
**classroom:** Bailey 101  
**e-mail:** michael.strausz@tcu.edu  
**office hours:** Mondays, 1:00pm-2:00pm; Tuesdays, 1:00pm-3:00pm  
**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 saw 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 class, we will examine the postwar political system in detail in order to understand both the causes and consequences of these changes. 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 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 it was due to properly documented illness 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, tablets, or smartphones to take notes in class are requested to use those devices *only* for class related purposes. I know

how tempting it can be to use an electronic device for Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Ravelry (the knitting social networking site), games, and other fun distractions, but if I catch a student doing so, that student will no longer be permitted to bring his or her electronic device to class. Remember that your primary responsibility at TCU is to learn. If you don't trust yourself to avoid online distractions, I encourage you to take notes with pen (or pencil!) and paper. Students wishing to make audio or video recordings of classes are required to come to my office hours to discuss acceptable use of those records and to sign a contract indicating that you will use those recordings responsibly. In the absence of written permission, you are not permitted to make audio or video recordings of classes.

5. *TCU E-mail*: Course-related communications will be sent to your TCU email account. Thus, check your TCU email regularly. "I did not see the email that you sent me three weeks ago" is not an acceptable excuse for failing to complete required course tasks.
6. *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.
7. *Deadlines*: Deadlines for assignments are strictly enforced. Unless otherwise noted, an assignment 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.
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 exam (**February 20**): 15%  
Second exam (**April 15**): 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.

**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 turn in a rough draft of their topic and thesis statement by **February 6**. Third, students are required to submit an annotated bibliography by **April 6**. Each of these components—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 33%). Each of these components will be graded on a credit/no credit basis, meaning if you turn in an acceptable topic and bibliography, you will get 100% on 2% of your final grade.

Late topics and annotated bibliographies will each result in grades of zero for 1% of your final grade. Even if you do not get a topic and annotated bibliography in on time, you are required to have each approved in order to be able to write a research paper. If you do not have at least a topic approved by April 17, you will receive a grade of zero on the research paper and oral presentation of research, and thus will likely fail the class. 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 on **Wednesday, May 6 at 10:30am.**

**Oral Presentation of Research Findings:** During the last two weeks of class, each student will be required to make an 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, *The Art of the Gut: Manhood, Power, and Ethics in Japanese Politics*

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

#### **Schedule:**

12-Jan *Introduction*  
No assigned reading.

14-Jan *Politics in Japan Today*  
Harris, Tobias. 2014. "The Reactionary Visionary: Can Shinzo Abe Convince Japan's Voters that the Path to Future Glory Lies in the Imperial Past?" *Foreign Policy*, December 12.  
Pilling, David. 2014. *Bending Adversity: Japan and the Art of Survival*. New York: The Penguin Press, pp. 303-318.

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

16-Jan *400 Years in 50 Minutes: A Primer on Modern Japanese History*  
Schlesinger, pp. 10-45

19-Jan MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

21-Jan *Is the LDP Neither Liberal, Democratic, nor a Party?*  
Schlesinger, pp. 46-90

- 23-Jan *Talking about Tanaka*  
Schlesinger, pp. 93-130
- 26-Jan *Political Parties and Recent Elections in Japan*  
Schlesinger, pp. 131-155
- 28-Jan *The Bubble that Burst*  
Schlesinger, pp. 159-192
- 30-Jan *Japan: Who Governs?*  
Schlesinger, pp. 193-227
- 2-Feb *Is Ichiro Ozawa the Forrest Gump of Japanese Politics?*  
Schlesinger pp. 231-278
- 4-Feb *Wrapping up Schlesinger*  
Schlesinger pp. 279-285

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

- 6-Feb *Japanese democracy beyond Kakuei Tanaka*  
Haddad, pp. 1-28  
**Research paper topic and thesis statement due at 11:00am**
- 9-Feb *Tipping points and democratization*  
Haddad, pp. 29-45
- 11-Feb *Prewar democracy?*  
Haddad, pp. 46-72
- 13-Feb *Democracy in local institutions*  
Haddad, pp. 73-101
- 16-Feb *Democracy and the NGO*  
Haddad, pp. 102-128
- 18-Feb *Where is culture in all of this?*  
Haddad, pp. 129-153
- 20-Feb **First exam**
- 23-Feb *Senkyo*  
No assigned reading
- 25-Feb *More Senkyo*  
No assigned reading

- 27-Feb *Japanese political economy*  
Schoppa, pp. 1-16
- 2-Mar *Exit, voice and loyalty*  
Schoppa, pp. 17-35
- 4-Mar *Take a ride on the convoy*  
Schoppa, pp. 36-66
- 6-Mar *The convoy falls apart*  
Schoppa, pp. 67-97
- 9, 11, & 13 Mar SPRING BREAK
- 16-Mar *"Hollowing out" and Japanese public policy*  
Schoppa, pp. 98-111
- 18-Mar *Exceptions and Schoppa's argument*  
Schoppa, pp. 183-198
- 20-Mar *Wrapping up Schoppa*  
Schoppa, pp. 199-212
- 23-Mar *What is LeBlanc up to?*  
LeBlanc, pp. 1-36
- 25-Mar *Citizenship in Japan*  
Leblanc, pp. 37-67
- 27-Mar *Conducting research on Japanese politics*  
No assigned reading.
- 30-Mar *From political science (or other) major to employment*  
No assigned reading.
- 1-Apr *The Inheritor*  
LeBlanc, pp. 68-94
- 3-Apr GOOD FRIDAY
- 6-Apr *Social Movements in Japan*  
LeBlanc, pp. 95-127  
**Research paper annotated bibliography due at 11:00am**

- 8-Apr *Cheating and democracy*  
LeBlanc, pp. 128-158
- 10-Apr *Gender and politics in Japan*  
LeBlanc, pp. 159-186
- 13-Apr *Salad and cigarettes for breakfast?*  
LeBlanc, pp. 187-202
- 15-Apr **Second exam**
- 17-Apr *Dr. Strausz's research*  
Assigned reading to be announced.
- 20-Apr *Research presentations*  
No assigned reading.
- 22-Apr *Research presentations*  
No assigned reading.
- 24-Apr *Research presentations*  
No assigned reading.
- 27-Apr *Research presentations*  
No assigned reading.
- 29-Apr *Conclusion*  
No assigned reading.
- 6-May **Research paper due at 10:30am**