

## **JAPANESE POLITICS AND SOCIETY**

Political Science 3346 / History 3395, Spring 2014

M 6:30–9:20pm, 115 Dallas Hall

Web page: <http://courses.smu.edu>

Professor Hiroki Takeuchi  
Department of Political Science  
Office: 211 Carr Collins  
Email: [htakeuch@smu.edu](mailto:htakeuch@smu.edu)  
Office hours: M 9:30–11:30am  
and by appointment

Professor William Tsutsui  
Clements Department of History  
Office: 201 Dallas Hall  
Email: [btsutsui@smu.edu](mailto:btsutsui@smu.edu)  
Office hours: By appointment only,  
contact Cindy Havens  
[chavens@smu.edu](mailto:chavens@smu.edu)

### **Course Description and Objectives**

This course offers a general introduction to the major historical, political, and social trends of contemporary Japan that affect the future of Japan, East Asia, and the world including the United States. Unlike the courses that merely focus on economic development, political institutions, and elite politics, this course focuses on popular attitudes and culture, political participation, and the government's response in the globalized world. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- (1) understand contemporary history of Japanese politics, society, economy, and culture since World War II;
- (2) analyze continuity, change, and challenges in various aspects of Japanese politics and society; and
- (3) critically evaluate the responses of the Japanese government and various actors in the Japanese politics and society to the major challenges facing Japan.

Throughout the course, efforts will be made to integrate historical materials, specific political and social issues, and analytical concepts of history and political science. We begin in Part I by focusing on political institutions and party politics in Japan, reviewing the “1955 System” when the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was dominant, and how this system has changed since the LDP began losing its dominance in 1993, had to start competing under new electoral rules, and finally lost to the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) in 2009. We also discuss the LDP's come back to office in 2012. Part II then examines Japan's political economy, reviewing how the Japanese economy has changed from the period of the Japanese economic miracle (1950–1990) through the more recent decades in which Japan has endured a prolonged economic slump and a fall in the fertility rate that threatens to shrink Japan's working-age population by 30 million over the next few decades. We pay special attention to a Japanese unique relationship between the state and the market. Part III discusses Japan's foreign policies and the Japanese society in globalization, reviewing how Japan is seeking to adjust its foreign policies to meet the challenges from its own society and the globalized world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We also review how the 3/11 Earthquake in 2011 has influenced both Japanese domestic politics and foreign policy. We will

conclude the course with a discussion of recent debates about Japan's political and social future. **No prior knowledge of Japanese politics or history will be assumed.**

## Course Requirements

1. Attendance and participation (20% of a student's course grade): Attendance at lecture and participation in discussion are mandatory. The readings vary in length and difficulty but average about 100–200 pages per week. You are expected to attend all the lectures and do the required readings. Come to class **prepared and ready to participate** in discussing the material assigned in the readings. Most importantly, *students are required to turn in a **memo by emailing it to the instructors by Sunday at 5pm before class.*** An unexcused absence will adversely affect your course grade, as will being present but unprepared to participate, or participating without being prepared.

*After two unexcused absences, we may drop you from the course or give an FA (F for attendance) to your course grade. An excused absence is almost exclusively restricted to religious reasons, certain university activities, documented medical conditions, or documented family emergencies. Absences for religious reasons or for university extracurricular activities require communication with us at the **beginning** of the semester. It is **your** responsibility to make arrangements with us **prior** to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.*

Ultimately your attendance and participation grade turns on **our** impression of how seriously you take this course. It is **your** responsibility to take this course seriously and let us know that. How? Attend class; be prepared for class—read the assignments for understanding, be ready to ask and answer questions, take an informed role in discussions, and especially write a good memo; **arrive early** to class; remain for the entire class; *be attentive in class without distracting us or your classmates with cell phones, text messages, side conversations, bathroom trips, coming-and-going, and so forth*; complete assignments when due; and demonstrate your understanding on the essays and other assignments. Laptops, cell phones, iPhones, and any other *electronic devices may not be used in class—not even for note-taking.*

The course is designed, and will be conducted, like a graduate seminar. How well this course achieves its goals will depend on students' participation. Students are expected to do the assigned reading **before** class; to have read **actively**, comparing what they are reading with what they already know through other readings in this class or other classes to join class discussions.

Each week **every** student expected to give a brief (1–2 minutes) presentation of their initial impressions of the readings, along with any questions they wish to raise for the day's discussion.

2. Two Take-home midterms (15% each): The first take-home midterm will be made available on Feb. 17 and due Feb. 24, and the second take-home midterm will be made available on

Mar. 31 and due Apr. 7. The exam is open book and open notes and will require no more than 7 pages (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font) of writing. No extensions will be granted except in the case of a serious illness or a death in the family. **Please plan to finish the assignment prior to the due date, and leave adequate time to work out any computer or printer problems that may arise.**

3. Research paper (35%): Each student will be required to write a 10–15 page research paper (typed, double-spaced, and 12-point font) on a controversial issue in Japanese politics and/or society. Topics and readings for the paper should be developed in close consultation with the course instructors. *Each paper must be re-written, taking into account criticism of your first draft.* Each student is *required to meet the following due dates:*

Paper topic / question	Feb. 3
Progress report	Mar. 3
First draft	Mar. 31
Final draft	May 5

Each research paper will be evaluated based on the final draft. However, *the paper will not be graded and given an F if you have not turned in the first draft or some of the previous assignments.* Moreover, if you turn in the first draft late, your research paper grade will be marked down with 20%. *A paper written without close consultation with the instructors will not be graded and given an F.* If you receive an F for the research paper, you will also receive an F for your course grade. **Late papers will not be accepted.** More detailed information on this assignment will be posted on the course web site.

4. Take-home final (15 %): The take-home final will be made available on May 5 and **due May 12 at 9:30pm by email.** It will cover material from the entire semester but mainly from Part III. The exam is open book and open notes and will require no more than 7 pages (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font) of writing. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Incompletes will be granted only in circumstances beyond your control: e.g., illness or family emergencies.

*Each of you must meet with Professor Takeuchi for 20 minutes in the first few weeks of the semester.* Sign up for an appointment time during the second week in class. Be punctual.

### **Disability Accommodations**

If you need academic accommodations for a disability, it is **your** responsibility to first contact Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS) at 214-768-1470 or [www.smu.edu/alec/dass.asp](http://www.smu.edu/alec/dass.asp) to verify the disability and establish eligibility for accommodations. You should then schedule an appointment with Professor Takeuchi to make appropriate arrangements. (See University Policy No. 2.4)

## Religious Observance

If you wish to be absent on religiously observed holidays that require missing class, you should notify us in **writing** at the **beginning** of the semester, and should discuss with us, **in advance**, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

## Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities

If you participate in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity, you will be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of your participation. It is **your** responsibility to make arrangements with us **prior** to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

## Books and Readings

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore. Readings marked with an asterisk (\*) are available electronically on the course webpage at the Blackboard (<http://courses.smu.edu>). There may be changes in the readings and assignments below. This course requires use of the Blackboard.

Patricia L. Maclachlan, *The People's Post Office: The History and Politics of the Japanese Postal System, 1871–2010* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012).

Frances M. Rosenbluth and Michael F. Thies, *Japan Transformed: Political Change and Economic Restructuring* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2010).

Richard J. Samuels, *3.11: Disaster and Change in Japan* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2013).

Leonard J. Schoppa, ed., *The Evolution of Japan's Party System: Politics and Policy in an Era of Institutional Change* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011).

Tomohito Shinoda, *Contemporary Japanese Politics: Institutional Changes and Power Shifts* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2013).

## Schedule and Reading Assignments

Readings provide background on topics covered in class lectures and discussions, so read the assignment **before** the class for which they are assigned. Since the course will make frequent reference to current events, you should make a habit of *reading a respectable newspaper on a regular basis* and pay attention to the events in Japan.

## **1. Introduction (Jan. 27)**

Rosenbluth and Thies, chapters 1–3 (pp. 1–52)

Shinoda, introduction (pp. 1–10)

## **I. Political Institutions and Party Politics**

### **2. Party Politics: From LDP Dominance to DPJ Rule (Feb. 3)**

Rosenbluth and Thies, chapters 4 & 6 (pp. 53–71 & 95–122)

Shinoda, chapters 1–2 (pp. 11–75)

In Schoppa:

Schoppa, “Introduction: From the 1955 System to the ‘2000 System’” (pp. 3–13)

Schoppa, “Path Dependence in the Evolution of Japan’s Party System since 1993” (pp. 14–42)

Reed, “The Evolution of the LDP’s Electoral Strategy: Towards a More Coherent Political Party” (pp. 43–62)

## **RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC/QUESTION DUE FEB. 3**

### **3. The Japanese Economy Now: Abenomics and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (Feb. 10)**

**[Guest Speaker: Professor Fukunari Kimura]**

\* Hillary Clinton, “America’s Pacific Century,” *Foreign Policy* 189 (November 2011): pp. 56–63.

\* Bernard K. Gordon, “Trading Up in Asia: Why the United States Needs the Trans-Pacific Partnership,” *Foreign Affairs* 91(4) (July/August 2012): pp. 17–22.

\* Fukunari Kimura, “How Have Production Networks Changed Development Strategies in Asia?” in Deborah K. Elms and Patrick Low, *Global Value Chains in a Changing World* (Geneva: WTO Publications, 2013): pp. 361–383.

Additional reading TBA

*Recommended reading (if you have advanced knowledge of economics):*

\* Mitsuyo Ando and Fukunari Kimura, “Evolution of Machinery Production Networks: Linkage of North America with East Asia,” ERIA Discussion Paper Series (November 2013) (58 pages).

#### **4. Japanese Politics in a New Age? (Feb. 17)**

Shinoda, chapters 3–7 & epilogue (pp. 76–235)

Robert Weiner, “The Evolution of the DPJ: Two Steps Forward, One Step Back,” in Schoppa (pp. 63–98).

#### **5. Tower Center Symposium: “U.S., South & North Korea: What the Future Holds” (Feb. 24, 5:30–7:30pm)**

**The first midterm distributed on Feb. 17 and due Feb. 24**

## **II. Political Economy and Society**

#### **6. Bureaucracy, LDP, and the Market Economy (Mar. 3)**

Maclachlan, introduction & chapters 1–2 (pp. 1–109)

**RESEARCH PAPER PROGRESS REPORT DUE MAR. 3**

#### **7. Postal Politics and FILP Reform (Mar. 17)**

**[Guest Speaker: Professor Patricia Maclachlan]**

Maclachlan, chapters 3–6 & conclusion (pp. 110–329)

#### **8. Changes in Japan’s Political Economy (Mar. 24)**

Rosenbluth and Thies, chapters 5 & 7–9 (pp. 72–94 & 123–185)

\* Steven Vogel, *Japan Remodeled: How Government and Industry Are Reforming Japanese Capitalism* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2006), pp. 22–50, 205–224.

#### **9. Socio-Economic Change and Policy Response: LDP vs. DPJ (Mar. 31)**

In Schoppa:

Maclachlan, “Ideas, Interests, and Institutions: Japanese Postal Privatization in Comparative Perspective” (pp. 119–149).

Toyoda, “Reforming Government Financial Institutions” (pp. 150–176).

Miura, “The Impact of Two-Party Competition on Neoliberal Reform and Labor Unions in Japan” (pp. 177–204).

Schoppa and Tanaka, "Conclusion: The Evolutionary Dance Continues with the DPJ Victory in 2009" (pp. 205–212).

## **RESEARCH PAPER FIRST DRAFT DUE MAR. 31**

### **10. Film: *Gojira* (1954) (Apr. 7)**

**The second midterm distributed on Mar. 31 and due Apr. 7**

## **III. Globalization and Japan after 3/11**

### **11. Globalization and Japanese Culture and Society Today (Apr. 14)**

\* Douglas McGlay, "Japan's Gross National Cool," *Foreign Policy* (May 2002): pp. 44–54.

\* Anne Allison, "The Attractions of the J-Wave for American Youth," in Watanabe Yasushi and David McConnell, eds., *Soft Power Superpowers* (Armonk, NY: ME Sharpe, 2008): pp.99–110.

\* Koichi Iwabuchi, "Soft Nationalism and 'Narcissism: Japanese Popular Culture Goes Global,'" *Asian Studies Review* 26(4) (December 2002): pp. 447–469.

\* Ian Condry, *The Soul of Anime: Collaborative Creativity and Japan's Media Success Story* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2013): pp. 1–34.

### **12. 3/11 and After: Earthquake, Nuclear Disaster, and Energy Policy (Apr. 21)**

Samuels, entire (200 pages)

### **13. Japan's Foreign Policy (Apr. 28)**

\* Kenneth B. Pyle, *Japan Rising: The Resurgence of Japanese Power and Purpose* (New York: Public Affairs, 2007): pp. 210–309.

\* Gerald L. Curtis, "Japan's Cautious Hawks: Why Tokyo Is Unlikely to Pursue an Aggressive Foreign Policy," *Foreign Affairs* 92(2): (March/April 2013): pp. 77–86.

\* "Japan Is Back: A Conversation with Shinzo Abe," *Foreign Affairs* 92(4) (July/August 2013): pp. 2–9.

\* "Beijing's Brand Ambassador: A Conversation with Cui Tiankai," *Foreign Affairs* 92(4) (July/August 2013): pp. 10–17.

\* Richard Katz, “Mutual Assured Production: Why Trade Will Limit Conflict between China and Japan,” *Foreign Affairs* 92(4) (July/August 2013): pp. 18–24.

Additional reading TBA

#### **14. China-Japan-U.S. Relations (May 5)**

**[Guest Speaker: Admiral Patrick Walsh]**

**RESEARCH PAPER FINAL DRAFT DUE May 5**

**Take-home final distributed on May 5 and due May 12 at 9:30pm**