

POLITICS IN JAPAN
Global Cultures Flag
Fall 2018

GOV 321M (#38420)/ ANS 321M (#32307)
 TTH: 9:30-11:00 am, UTC 4.104

Instructor: **Dr. Patricia L. Maclachlan**

Professor of Government and Asian Studies

BAT 3.150 / Tel: 512-232-1724

E: pmaclachlan@austin.utexas.edu

Office Hours: Tues., 11:15-12:15; Thurs., 2:30-4:30; or by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Stella-Leonie Wancke

Course Description:

This upper division course surveys key themes in the domestic politics and political economy of postwar Japan from historical, comparative and theoretical perspectives. After a brief introduction to prewar politics, we will explore the impact of the American Occupation (1945-52) on the postwar Japanese political system, the secrets of the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) extraordinary dominance in postwar elections, the rise and fall of the postwar "miracle" economy, the quality of civil society, and gender politics. We will devote our final sessions to Japan's painstaking movement toward political-economic reform.

Our sessions will employ a variety of different approaches, including lectures, films, guided discussions, class analysis of assigned readings, and newspaper articles on current events. Students are strongly advised to attend classes regularly, since many of the topics addressed in the exams will be explored *only* in the lectures.

Politics in Japan, which carries the "Global Cultures Flag," is designed to increase student familiarity with cultural groups outside the U.S. Over the course of the semester, we will pay close attention to the cultural and institutional foundations of Japanese politics, and with reference to comparable Western and other Asian experiences.

Prerequisites: 6 semester hours of lower division Government courses. No prior knowledge of Japan is required. Graduate students may take this course for graduate credit.

Required Texts: The following texts are available for purchase at the University Co-op:

1. David Pilling, *Bending Adversity: Japan and the Art of Survival*. Penguin Books, 2015. (Background reading. Volume will be tested in Midterm Exam #1 and in the Final Exam.)
2. Jacob M. Schlesinger, *Shadow Shoguns: The Rise and Fall of Japan's Postwar Political Machine*. Stanford University Press, 1999.

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

4. Robin M. LeBlanc, *Bicycle Citizens: The Political World of the Japanese Housewife*. University of California Press, 1999.

All additional readings, including short newspaper articles on current events, will be posted under Modules on the Canvas site for this course.

Assignments:

1. Quizzes on assigned readings (6-8): 15%
2. Midterm Exam #1 (Oct. 9): 20%
 - Exam will consist of multiple choice/true or false questions and very brief essay questions, and will cover all readings (including Pilling), films, lectures and discussions from the beginning of the semester.
3. Midterm Exam #2 (Nov. 13): 25%
 - Same format as first midterm; covers only topics addressed since Oct. 9.
 - Instead of the exam, students may write a short (6-8 pages) research paper on a topic of their choice. Instructional materials will be distributed early in the semester. Students must choose **either** the exam **or** the paper. Brief paper proposals due Oct. 18. Final papers due in class on Dec. 4.
4. Final Exam: (Thurs., December 13, 9:00am-12:00pm): 40%
 - Cumulative. Exam will include multiple choice/true or false questions, term identifications, and two essays. A list of possible essay questions will be distributed in advance of the exam.

Grade Scale:

Letter Grade	GPA	Percentage Score
A	4.0	94-100%
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.0	84-86
B-	2.67	80-83
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.0	74-76
C-	1.67	70-73
D+	1.33	67-69
D	1.0	64-66
D-	.67	60-63
F	0	59 & below

Class Guidelines:

1. **Laptops and cell phones are not permitted for use in the classroom.**
2. Students with disabilities are welcome to request appropriate accommodations. Please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (512-471-6259/ ssd@austin.utexas.edu) and the instructor for further information.
3. Students guilty of academic misconduct (e.g., cheating on an exam or plagiarizing a paper) will receive a "0" for the assignment in question. *No exceptions.* Students should familiarize themselves with the following tutorial on what plagiarism is and how it can be avoided:
<http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/services/instruction/avoidplagiarism.html>
4. All lectures, class discussions, readings, films and supplementary newspaper articles are subject to examination.
5. Each (pre-announced) quiz will be administered promptly at 9:30. If you arrive late, you will miss the quiz! **Please note that while make-up quizzes cannot be accommodated, your lowest quiz score will be dropped from your final quiz grade.**
6. All assignments must be completed on schedule. Students with documented illnesses may be exempted from this rule. Late paper submissions will be penalized 5% per day beginning one hour after the deadline.
7. PowerPoint presentations will be posted on Canvas in advance of the lectures. The presentations are designed to provide you with rough outlines of basic concepts and themes. **To do well on exams, you must attend classes regularly and take detailed notes during lectures and discussions.**
8. You are required to take the final exam during the timeslot designated by the university. No exceptions. **Do not make travel arrangements for that day.**
9. Please arrive for class on time and inform me in advance of unavoidable absences, late arrivals, and early departures.
10. If you have any questions about the lectures and assignments or require extra assistance, you are encouraged see me or Stella Wancke outside of class. If your schedule conflicts with our office hours, we will arrange for an alternative meeting time.

Lecture Schedule

Aug. 30: Introduction to the Course

No readings

Sept. 4: Why Study Japanese Politics?

- Rosenbluth & Thies, *Japan Transformed*, Chapter 1.

Sept. 6: Prewar Japanese Politics in a Nutshell

- Rosenbluth & Thies, *Japan Transformed*, Chapters 2 & 3.

Sept. 11, 13, 18 & 20: The American Occupation of Japan – Legacies for Postwar Politics

- Herbert Passin, "The Occupation: Some Reflections," *Daedalus* 119 (Summer 1990): 107-129.
- John W. Dower, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* (W.W. Norton & Co., 1999), Chapters 12, 13 & 15.

Sept. 25, 27, Oct. 2 & 4: The Secrets of the LDP's "One-Party Dominance"

- Rosenbluth & Thies, *Japan Transformed*, Chapter 4.
- Schlesinger, *Shadow Shoguns*, Introduction and Chapters 1-19.

Oct. 9: First In-Class Midterm Exam

Oct. 11, 16, 18 & 23: The Rise and Fall of Japan's Postwar "Miracle" Economy

* Oct. 18: Optional research paper proposals due at beginning of class

- Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle* (Stanford University Press, 1982), Chapter 1.
- Rosenbluth & Thies, *Japan Transformed*, Chapter 5.

Oct. 25, 30 & Nov. 1: Civil Society and Japan's Politically Marginalized

- Frank Schwartz, "Civil Society in Japan Reconsidered," *Japanese Journal of Political Science*, 3 (2002): 195-215.
- Patricia L. Maclachlan, "Information Disclosure and the Center-Local Relationship in Japan," in Sheila A. Smith, ed., *Local Voices, National Issues:*

The Impact of Local Initiative on Japanese Policy-Making (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, Center for Japanese Studies, 2000): pp. 9-30.

Nov. 6 & 8: Gender Politics

- LeBlanc, *Bicycle Citizens*, all chapters.

Nov. 13: Second In-Class Midterm Exam

Nov. 15, 20 & 27: The Collapse of LDP Dominance and the Transformation of Japanese Politics

**Nov 22: Thanksgiving Day (No Class)*

- Schlesinger, *Shadow Shoguns*, Chapters 20-22 & Conclusion.
- Rosenbluth & Thies, *Japan Transformed*, Chapter 6.

Nov. 29, Dec. 4 & 6: The Slow March Toward Political-Economic Reform

**Dec. 4: Optional research papers due*

- Rosenbluth & Thies, *Japan Transformed*, Chapters 7 & 9.
- Patricia L. Maclachlan and Kay Shimizu, "Japanese Farmers in Flux: The Domestic Sources of Agricultural Reform," *Asian Survey* 56:3 (May/June 2016): 442-465.
- Kennth Mori McElwain and Christian G. Winkler, "What's Unique About the Japanese Constitution? A Comparative and Historical Analysis," *The Journal of Japanese Studies* 41:2 (Summer 2015): 249-280.

Useful Japan-related websites:

- <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/> (English edition of Asahi Shimbun)
- <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/> (The Japan Times)
- <http://thediplomat.com> (The Diplomat: online news magazine covering current events in East Asia, including Japan)
- <http://www.eastasiaforum.org> (East Asia Forum: writings on Japan and other East Asian countries)
- <http://web-japan.org/links/index.html> (provides links to government websites and English-language newspapers)
- <http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/index-e.html> (home page of the prime minister's official residence)
- <http://newslet.iss.u-tokyo.ac.jp/> (Social Science Japan Newsletter, from the University of Tokyo)
- http://hcl.harvard.edu/research/guides/data_japan/index.html (data resources on Japan from Harvard University. Not all resources are available to non-affiliates.)
- <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/eastasia> (the website for UT's Center for East Asian Studies. Check for list of upcoming events on Japan and useful research resources)