

**POLITICS IN JAPAN (In Person)**  
**Global Cultures Flag**  
**GOV 321M (#38390)/ ANS 321M (#32625)**  
**University of Texas at Austin**  
**Fall 2022**  
**TTH: 3:30-5:00, UTC 3.134**

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

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Office Hours (In person or via Zoom): Tues, 1:15-3:00 pm; Thurs, 9:15-10:30, or by appointment. Please use Calendly to set up your meeting:

[https://calendly.com/pmaclachlan\\_office](https://calendly.com/pmaclachlan_office)

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Office Hours:

**Course Description:** This upper division course introduces students to major themes in the domestic politics of modern Japan, with an emphasis on the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present. After a brief analysis of the significance of the recent assassination of former Prime Minister Abe Shinzō for Japanese politics, we will analyze key developments and institutions in Japan's pre-WWII and Occupation-era history, party politics and the secrets of the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) extraordinary dominance in postwar elections, Japan's early postwar economic "miracle" and subsequent changes in the government-business relationship, the challenges of contemporary political-economic reform, and perspectives on politics from Japanese women and other politically marginalized groups. These and related themes will be explored from theoretical, historical, and comparative perspectives.

**Global Cultures Flag:** Politics in Japan is designed to increase student familiarity with cultural groups outside the U.S. We will therefore 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.

**Required Texts:** You don't have to purchase anything. All required readings will be posted under Modules on the Canvas site for this course.

Assignments:

1. Quizzes (approx. 7 or 8) on targeted readings: 15%  
Quizzes will be held in class via Canvas. They will consist primarily of multiple choice and true/false questions, as well questions requiring short written answers. Each quiz will be worth 10 points.
2. Exam #1 (In class, via Canvas, Oct. 11) 25%  
This exam will consist of multiple choice/ true or false questions, questions requiring brief written answers, and questions requiring short paragraph answers. All lectures, discussions, and assigned readings are subject to examination.
3. Research Paper (due 10:00 pm, Fri. Nov. 18): 35%  
  
Students are to write a short research paper (8-10 pages) on a topic of their choice. A brief proposal must be submitted by 10 pm on Oct. 4. More details and supporting materials have been posted on Canvas.
4. Exam #2 (In class, via Canvas, Dec. 1): 25%  
  
Same format as first midterm. Cumulative.

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**

Attendance and Discussions: Although there are no attendance or discussion grades in this class, a significant portion of the course material will be conveyed via lectures and discussions. It is therefore in your interest to be both present and engaged. *Students who make regular and meaningful contributions to class discussions will have **bonus points** added to their final exam grade.*

### Class etiquette:

- Please do not call me by my first name.
- Please arrive for class on time. If you must arrive late or leave early, you should inform me in advance.
- Please be respectful in your email messages to me. During the week, you should expect a response within 24-36 hours; if you don't hear from me within that window, feel free to contact me again. If you contact me over the weekend, expect a response on Monday.
- Please be respectful of your fellow students during class discussions—even if you strongly disagree with them.

Communications: The Canvas Announcements and email functions will be my primary mechanisms for communicating with you.

Exams will be timed and administered in class via Canvas. You must take the exams on their designated days. Timed quizzes, which are designed to help you keep up with the readings and prepare for class discussions, will be announced in advance and administered at the beginning of class via Canvas. Although there are *no make-ups* (no exceptions) for missed quizzes, you will have a handicap: your 2 lowest grades will be dropped from your final quiz score. See the “Syllabus & Course Resources” module on Canvas for more information about quizzes and exams.

Grade disputes: If you have reason to suspect a mistake in the grading of a quiz, exam or written assignment, send our TA a written explanation of the issue within one week of receiving your grade and *after* reviewing relevant answer keys.

Laptop and cellphone policy: Scientific research has proved that college students perform better without the distractions of laptops and cell phones during lectures and discussions. So, I ask that you put these devices away during class and take notes by hand. You will, however, need your laptop for quizzes and exams.

Late penalties: All assignments must be completed on schedule. Students with documented illnesses may be exempted from this rule. Late written submissions will be penalized 5% per day beginning one hour after the deadline.

Office hours: You may meet with me either in person or via Zoom. Please set up a 20-minute appointment via Calendly: [https://calendly.com/pmaclachlan\\_office](https://calendly.com/pmaclachlan_office) If you choose to attend in person, send me an email on the morning of our meeting to let me know that you will visit my office at your scheduled time. Note: I will wear a mask during in-person meetings and respectfully ask that you do the same.

Policy on Covid-19: This course will meet **in person**. I encourage you to wear a well-fitting mask while attending class. I will wear a mask when speaking to you up close—including during in-person office hours—but will remove it while lecturing. Please don't come to class if you feel ill or suspect that you've been exposed to the virus; I will help you catch up and access class notes from other students. For information about Covid-19 testing and assistance, consult the University Health Services website: <https://www.healthyhorns.utexas.edu/>

PowerPoint Presentations will be posted on Canvas prior to relevant lectures. These are intended to outline and supplement the lectures. To do well, you must take notes during lectures and discussions.

Readings: Assigned readings for each lecture should be completed *before* we meet. Note that quizzes, exams, and written assignments are designed to reward students who thoroughly engage the reading material.

You have the right to miss class for religious purposes. But I encourage you to keep our TA informed of such absences.

Students with disabilities are welcome to request appropriate accommodations. Please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (512-471-6259/ [ssd@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:ssd@austin.utexas.edu)) for further information, and be sure to make an appointment with me early in the semester to discuss your needs.

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:

<https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/c.php?g=539686&p=8083280>

## **Lecture Schedule**

### **Unit I: Introduction to the Course, August 23-30**

#1: Course Intro

- No readings

#2: The Death of Abe Shinzō: What It Means for Japanese Politics

- Tobias Harris. "The Postwar Japan that Abe Built." *The New York Times*, July 9, 2022.
- Koichi Nakano. "Shinzo Abe Failed to Rearm Japan. Let's Keep It That Way." *The New York Times*, July 20, 2022.

#3: Institutions: What Are They and Why Do They Matter?

- Hugh Heclo. "Thinking Institutionally." In R. A. W. Rhodes, Sarah A. Binder and Bert A. Rockman, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*: New York: Oxford University Press, 2006, pp. 731-42.
- Tiffany May. "Japanese Student Forced to Dye Hair Black Wins, and Loses, in Court." *The New York Times*, February 19, 2021.
- Hikari Hida. "Discreetly, the Young in Japan Chip Away at a Taboo on Tattoos." *The New York Times*, April 23, 2022.
- Mokoto Rich and Ben Dooley. "Japan's Secret to Taming the Coronavirus: Peer Pressure." *The New York Times*, July 2, 2022.

### **Unit II: Japanese Political History in Brief, Sept. 1-20**

#4: The Prewar Political System

- No readings

#5: *The Road to World War II*

- Masao Maruyama. "Theory and Psychology of Ultra-Nationalism." In *Thought and Behavior in Modern Japanese Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1963, pp. 1-23.

#6: *The Defeat*

- Kenneth Pyle. "The Making of Postwar Japan: A Speculative Essay." *The Journal of Japanese Studies* 46, no. 1 (Winter 2020): 113-43.

#7: *The Punitive Peace: Purges and War Crimes Trials*

- John W. Dower. *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1999, Chapter 15 ("Victor's Justice," pp. 443-84).

#8/9: *Reforming Japan: Accomplishments and Controversies*

- Herbert Passin. "The Occupation: Some Reflections." *Daedalus* 119, no. 3 (Summer 1990): 107-129.
- Carol Gluck. "The Idea of Showa." *Daedalus* 119, no. 3 (Summer 1990): 1-26.

### **Unit III: Postwar Party Politics, Sept. 22-Oct. 4**

#10: *The Parliamentary System*

- No readings
- *Friday, Sept. 23 at 10 pm: research paper proposal forms due*

#11/12: *The Rise and Decline of LDP Dominance*

- Gerald L. Curtis. *The Logic of Japanese Politics: Leaders, Institutions and the Limits of Change*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1999, Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 1-97).

- Chalmers Johnson. "Tanaka Kakuei, Structural Corruption, and the Advent of Machine Politics in Japan." *Journal of Japanese Studies* 12, no. 1 (Winter 1986): 1-28.

#13: The 1994 Electoral Reforms

- Curtis. *The Logic of Japanese Politics*, Chapter 4 (pp. 137-70).

#14: **Review/Discussion Session (Oct. 6)**

#15: **Exam #1 (Oct. 11): In class via Canvas**

**Unit IV: From "Miracle" to Slow Growth—the Postwar Japanese Political Economy: Oct. 13-Nov. 1**

#16: Japan's Postwar Economic "Miracle": What Happened and Why?

- No readings

#17/18: The Developmental State and Industrial Policy

- Frank K. Upham. "The Man Who Would Import: A Cautionary Tale About Bucking the System in Japan." *Journal of Japanese Studies* 17, no. 2 (Summer 1991): 323-343.

#19: The Challenges of Economic Reform

- Patricia L. Maclachlan. "'Storming the Castle': The Battle for Postal Reform in Japan." *Social Science Japan Journal* 9, no. 1 (2006): 1-18.

#20/21: Abenomics

- Takeo Hoshi and Phillip Y. Lipscy. "Introduction." In Takeo Hoshi and Phillip Y. Lipscy, eds., *The Political Economy of the Abe Government and Abenomics Reforms*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021, pp. 1-39 (read to p. 29).

- Patricia L. Maclachlan and Kay Shimizu. "Japanese Agricultural Reform Under Abenomics." In Takeo Hoshi and Phillip Y. Lipscy, eds., *The Political Economy of the Abe Government and Abenomics Reforms*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021, pp. 421-44.

## **Unit V: The Underrepresented in Japanese Politics, Nov. 3-15**

### **#22: Citizen Activism: the Case of 3.11**

- Daniel M. Aldrich. "Trust Deficit: Japanese communities and the challenge of rebuilding Tohoku." *Japan Forum* 29, no. 1 (2017): 39-52.

### **#23: Women in the Political and Business Worlds**

- Gill Steel and Sherry Martin. "Gender and Politics in Japan." In Robert J. Pekkanen and Saadia M. Pakkenan, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Japanese Politics*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2022, pp. 281-298.
- Nobuko Nagase. "Abe's Womenomics Policy: Did It Reduce the Gender Gap in Management?" In Takeo Hoshi and Phillip Y. Lipscy, eds., *The Political Economy of the Abe Government and Abenomics Reforms*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021, pp. 310-56.

### **#24: The Politics of Reproductive Rights**

- Tiana Norgren. "Abortion Before Birth Control: The Interest Group Politics Behind Postwar Japanese Reproduction Policy." *Journal of Japanese Studies* 24, no. 1 (Winter 1998): 59-94.
- Magdalena Osumi. "Abortion Legal and Apolitical in Japan, but Cost and Consent Present Barriers." *The Japan Times*, June 28, 2022.

### **#25: Minority Groups: Zainichi Koreans and the Burakumin**

- No readings

### **#26: Wrapping Up: Japan in the Future—Challenges and Opportunities (Nov. 17)**



- No readings
- *Friday, Nov. 18, 10 pm: writing assignment due*

**Nov. 22 & 24, Thanksgiving: No Classes**

**#27: Review/Discussion Session (Nov. 29)**

**#28: Exam #2 (Dec. 1): Remote – Do Not Come to Class**

### **Some Online Resources for Current Events in Japan**

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/> (English edition of Asahi Shimbun. Limited access)

<https://www.cfr.org/blog/asia-unbound> (Blog on current events in East Asia by scholars at the Council on Foreign Relations. Includes postings on Japan. Open access.)

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/> (The Japan Times. Limited access)

<http://thediplomat.com> (The Diplomat: online news magazine covering current events in East Asia, including Japan. Limited access)

<http://www.eastasiaforum.org> (East Asia Forum: writings on Japan and other East Asian countries. Open access)

<http://web-japan.org/links/index.html> (provides links to government websites and English-language newspapers)

<https://japan.kantei.go.jp/> (The Prime Minister and his Cabinet)

<http://newslet.iss.u-tokyo.ac.jp/> (Social Science Japan Newsletter, from the University of Tokyo)

<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)