

JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY

Global Cultures Flag

SPRING 2024

GOV 365C (37510)/ANS 361-22 (31839)

MW 10:00-11:30, JES A307A

Patricia L. Maclachlan

Professor of Government & Asian Studies

BATS 3.150

Tel: 512-232-1724

E-mail: pmaclachlan@austin.utexas.edu

Office hours (in person; Zoom on request): M, 2:00-3:30; W, 11:45-1:15, or by appointment

Schedule a 15-minute app't via Calendly: https://calendly.com/pmaclachlan_office

This upper-division course traces the domestic and international determinants of modern (post-1868) Japan's remarkable evolution from an aggressor nation to one of the world's most reliable supporters of the liberal global order. What distinguished Japanese imperialism from its Western counterparts? Why did Japan attack Pearl Harbor in 1941? How did defeat in war and the subsequent American Occupation shape postwar Japan's passive foreign and defense policies and close relationship with the U.S.? What explains Japan's recent transformation into a more militarily robust, proactive regional power? And how have memories of World War II shaped contemporary Japan's relations with its neighbors? In addressing these major questions we will touch on several related themes, from the decision to drop nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 and the impact of "unconditional surrender" on postwar Japanese foreign policy to the significance of China's rise and the North Korean nuclear crisis on Japan's contemporary place in the world. Topics will be analyzed from comparative and historical perspectives and, when applicable, with reference to international relations theories.

Global Cultures Flag:

Japanese Foreign Policy is designed to increase student familiarity with societies outside the U.S. We therefore pay close attention to the cultural and institutional foundations of modern Japan's foreign affairs and with reference to comparable Western and other Asian experiences.

Course Requirements:

1. Class Participation (10%)

You are expected to participate actively in class discussions—some planned, others impromptu—on course themes. To do well in those discussions, you *must* attend class regularly and keep up with the readings.

2. **In-Class Exercises (10%)**

Approximately 8 very brief (10 min.) on-line exercises. The format of the exercises will vary; some will request a short paragraph describing your opinion about a specific theme or reading, while others will consist of a few multiple-choice questions. Dates will be announced in advance, and your two lowest scores will be dropped from your final grade. *No make-ups allowed.*

3. **Midterm Exam: Wed., Feb. 28 (20%)**

This closed, in-class exam will take no more than 75 minutes. It will consist of 2 parts: 1) True/False and Multiple-Choice questions; 2) questions requiring short written answers. All lectures, discussions, and readings are subject to examination.

4. **Writing Assignment: Due Friday, April 12, at 11:59 pm (35%).**

A) *An interpretive essay* (about 5 double-spaced pages) on a historical novel or film relevant to Japan's pre-1945 foreign affairs and/or its postwar legacies. You will be asked to describe and evaluate the work with reference to course themes. You may choose one of the following works or make another selection in consultation with me (by Friday, Feb. 23):

Novels:

Kazuo Ishiguro, *An Artist of the Floating World*

Akira Yoshimura, *One Man's Justice*

Richard Flanagan, *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*

Films:

Letters from Iwo Jima

Tokyo Trial (4-part TV series)

B) *A research paper* (6-8 pages) on a topic chosen in consultation with me.

Research questions must be approved by Friday, Feb. 23. You will follow a sequence of steps, including the submission of an abstract, paper outline, and annotated bibliography (due Friday, Mar. 22). If you complete the paper you will receive 5 bonus points.

5. **Final Exam (25%)**

This closed-book exam will be held during the final exam period (exact date and time will be available after January 16). It will consist of 3 parts: 1) Multiple-choice/True or False questions; 2) short answers; 3) essay. The exam is cumulative but will favor material covered since the midterm. Exam is designed to last about 2 hours, but you will have 3 hours to complete it.

Assigned Readings:

All readings can be accessed via Modules on the Canvas site for this course. If you choose Option A for the writing assignment, you are responsible for purchasing or accessing your chosen novel or film.

Grading Policy:

This course adopts the following grading 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 GuidelinesArtificial Intelligence:

I understand that it is tempting to turn to ChatGPT and other AI platforms to complete assignments. And I accept that AI will be an important part of our lives and careers in the near future. That said, AI has no place in courses like this one. Using AI prevents us from acquiring critical thinking skills, advanced communication (reading, writing, etc.) skills, and the knowledge required for both good citizenship and personal development—the main reasons we pursue a liberal arts education. It also robs us of the opportunity to learn how to recognize misinformation, distinguish good arguments from bad ones, and acquire the stock of knowledge necessary to control and monitor AI. Finally, depending on AI can be form of plagiarism *even* when properly cited, since AI does not yet do a good job of acknowledging sources and also produces prose *that is not your own*. **I therefore ask you to avoid AI for the purposes of this course and to sign an honor pledge to that effect.**

Attendance and discussions:

- Since much of the material of this course will be conveyed through lectures and discussions, it is important that you attend class regularly and participate actively in class discussions.

- To do well in discussions, you must keep up with the readings.
- I want to give everyone a chance to speak during class discussions. So, be bold! But please don't dominate!

Class etiquette:

- Please arrive for class on time. If you must arrive late or leave early, you should inform me shortly before the relevant class starts.
- Please be respectful in your email messages to me. During the week, you should expect a response within 24 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 within 48 hours.
- Please do not call me by my first name.
- *This class will address themes that are controversial. Note that our aim will be not to "judge" or "condemn" but rather to understand **why** things happen the way they do. Nevertheless, there will be times when disagreements will arise in the classroom. Please be respectful of your fellow students in such instances!*

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

Exams will be timed and administered via Canvas. *You must take the exams on their designated days. Do not schedule travel during the final exam week.*

Grade disputes: If you have reason to suspect a mistake in the grading of an exam or written assignment, please follow these steps. First, take 24 hours to review relevant answer keys and instructor feedback. Second, if you still suspect a grading error, explain the issue to me *in writing* in an email message within one week of receiving your grade. (Do not request a Zoom or in-person meeting for this purpose.) I will review your request and respond as quickly as possible. Please be mindful that my grading adheres to standards which I strive to apply equally to all students; personal pleas for a softer touch will not be entertained!

Laptop and cellphone policy: Laptops are permitted in this course, but only for the purposes of notetaking and completing in-class exercises/quizzes and the exams. Cellphones, however, are forbidden; please turn them off at the beginning of class and put them away.

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. Students requesting a make-up for the midterm exam due to unexplained no-shows will be penalized a flat 10%.

Make-up Assignments: There are no make-ups allowed for in-class exercises/quizzes. No exceptions. (Remember, you can miss two of these assignments with impunity, since your two lowest grades will be dropped from your final score. If you miss a third assignment, it won't make a significance difference for your overall semester grade!)

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. *The sharing of course PowerPoint Presentations with individuals outside the class is prohibited.*

Readings: To get the most out of the readings and the lectures and participate effectively during class discussions, relevant required readings should be completed *before* we meet. I will give you weekly instructions on what to read for each class. Note that 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. Just let me know in advance of class that you will be absent.

Students with disabilities are welcome to request appropriate accommodations. Please contact the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement for more information: <https://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/about>. Be sure to speak to 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. **A reminder that ChatGPT and related platforms are strictly forbidden in this class.** 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

Jan. 17: ***Introduction to the Course***

- No readings

Jan. 22: ***A Brief Overview of Modern Japanese Foreign Policy***

- No readings

Jan. 24, 29 & 31: ***The Meiji Restoration and the Rise of Japanese Imperialism***

- Duus, Peter. “The Origins of Meiji Imperialism.” In *The Abacus and the Sword: The Japanese Penetration of Korea, 1895-1910*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995, pp. 1-25 (read to p. 23).

- Okakura, Kazuo. *The Awakening of Japan*. New York: The Century Co., 1904, pp. 201-223.

Feb. 5, 7, 12 & 14: ***The Road to World War II***

- Nagai, Ryutaro. "Some Questions for President Roosevelt." *Contemporary Japan* vol. 8, no. 5 (July 1939): 563-573.
- Gann, L. H. "Reflections on the Japanese and German Empires." In Peter Duus, Ramon H. Myers, and Mark R. Peattie, eds., *The Japanese Wartime Empire, 1931-1945*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996, pp. 335-363.
- Henry L. Stimson, Henry L. "The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb," *Harper's* vol. 194, no. 1161 (February 1947): 97-107.
- Maruyama, Masao. "Theory and Psychology of Ultra-Nationalism." In *Thought and Behavior in Modern Japanese Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1963, pp. 1-23.

Feb. 19, 21 & 26: ***The "Allied" Occupation of Japan: 1945-1952***

- Sakamoto, Yoshikazu. "The International Context of the Occupation of Japan." In Robert E. Ward and Yoshikazu Sakamoto, eds. *Democratizing Japan: The Allied Occupation*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1987, pp. 46-78.
- Dower, John W. "Victor's Justice, Loser's Justice." In *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II*. NY: W.W Norton, 1999, pp. 443-84.
- Pyle, Kenneth. "The Making of Postwar Japan: A Speculative Essay." *The Journal of Japanese Studies* vol. 46, no. 1 (Winter 2020): 113-43.

Friday, Feb. 23: Deadline for deciding book/film choice or research question.

Feb. 28: In-Class Midterm Exam

Mar. 4 & 6: ***The Politics of War & Memory in Contemporary Japan***

- Dower, John W. "The Bombed: Hiroshimas and Nagasakis in Japanese Memory." *Diplomatic History* vol. 19, no. 2 (Spring 1995): 275-295.

- Lind, Jennifer. “The Perils of Apology: What Japan Shouldn’t Learn from Germany.” *Foreign Affairs* vol. 88, no. 3 (May-June 2009): 132-47.

Mar. 11 & 13: Spring Break – No Classes

Mar. 18, 20, 25, 27 & Apr. 1: The Post-WWII Settlement -- the U.S.-Japan Alliance & Japan’s Low-Posture Foreign Policy

- CFR Backgrounder. “The U.S.-Japan Security Alliance.” November 4, 2021. Access at: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-japan-security-alliance>
- Lind, Jennifer M. “Pacifism or Passing the Buck?: Testing Theories of Japanese Security Policy.” *International Security* vol. 29, no. 1 (Summer 2004): 92-121.
- Calder, Kent E. “Japanese Foreign Economic Policy Formation: Explaining the Reactive State.” *World Politics* (July 1988): 517-41.

Friday, Mar. 22 (11:59 pm): Abstract, outline and annotated bibliography (for research paper writers) due.

Apr. 3, 8, 10 & 15: Explaining Contemporary Japan’s Proactive Foreign & Defense Policies

- Ikenberry, John G. “The Stakeholder State: Ideology and Values in Japan’s Search for a Post-Cold War Global Role.” In Yoichi Funabashi and Barak Kushner, eds. *Examining Japan’s Lost Decades*. London and New York: Routledge, 2015. pp. 296-313.
- Liff, Adam P. “Japan’s Security Policy in the ‘Abe Era’: Radical Transformation or Evolutionary Shift?” *Texas National Security Review* vol. 1, no. 3 (May 2018): 8-34.
- Smith, Sheila A. “How Japan is Doubling Down on Its Military Power.” *Council on Foreign Relations Asia Program*, December 20, 2023. Access at: <https://www.cfr.org/article/how-japan-doubling-down-its-military-power>

Newspaper articles:

- Dominguez, Gabriel. “Japan Turns to Southeast Asia to Boost Security Network.” *The Japan Times*, November 5, 2023.
- Rich, Mokoto, and Hida, Hikari. “Japan Wants a Stronger Military: Can It Find Enough Troops?” *New York Times*, December 13, 2023.
- Dominguez, Gabriel, and Ninivaggi, Gabrielle. “Defense: Japan Eases Rules on Exporting Defense Gear.” *The Japan Times*, December 22, 2023.

Friday, April 12 (11:59 pm): Writing assignment due.

*Apr. 17, 22 & 24: **Issues in Contemporary Japanese Foreign Affairs: Students' Choice***

In this final section of the course, we will explore a few important issues in contemporary Japanese foreign affairs. Controversies surrounding U.S. bases in Okinawa? Japan's maritime disputes with China, Russia, and South Korea? North Korea's abduction of Japanese citizens? Japan's use of soft power in its foreign policy? Contemporary Japanese trade policy? You get to choose!

- Readings (they will be light) to be determined

*Apr. 29: **Summing Up***

- No readings

A few good on-line sources for keeping up with Japan-related current events:

- Asia Unbound (Council on Foreign Relations blog): <https://www.cfr.org/blog/asia-unbound>
- East Asia Forum: <http://www.eastasiaforum.org>
- Japan Times (newspaper): <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/>
(Readers entitled to only a few articles per month for free)
- Foreign Press Center/Japan: <https://fpcj.jp/en/>
- Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO—gov't organization): <https://www.jetro.go.jp/en/>
- Japan Focus (online magazine): <http://www.japanfocus.org>
- Japan Policy Research Institute (think tank): <http://www.jpri.org>
- Japan Today (online magazine): <http://www.japantoday.com>
- Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mofa.go.jp>
- Foreign Policy: foreignpolicy.com
- Statistics Bureau, Gov't of Japan: <http://www.stat.go.jp/english/>
- The Diplomat (online news magazine about E. Asia): <http://www.thediplomat.com>
- National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR): <http://www.nbr.org>