<u>POLITICS IN JAPAN</u> GOV 321M (#38605)/ ANS 321M (#31690)

TTH: 8:00-9:30 am, PAR 201 University of Texas at Austin Spring 2012

Patricia L. Maclachlan, PhD Associate Professor of Government and Asian Studies BATS 3.150 Tel: 232-1724

E: pmaclachlan@mail.utexas.edu

Office Hours: T: 11:00-1:00, TH: 10:00-11:00, or by appointment

Course Description:

Japan's modern political history has been punctuated by three "critical junctures" that changed—or promised to change—the face of Japan: the Meiji Restoration of 1868, which sparked a period of rapid political modernization and industrialization; the period of democratization during the Allied Occupation of Japan (1945-52); and the post-1993 era of political change, economic stagnation, and sluggish political-economic reform. Using the first two "critical junctures" as reference points, this course examines the structure and resilience of the institutions and power alignments of the postwar era. What is distinctive about those institutions and alignments? Why is Japan having so much trouble reforming them today? How can we explain the changes that *have* been introduced over the last decade or so?

In addressing these themes, we will explore a wide range of topics including the political legacies of the prewar political system, the impact of the Occupation on the development of postwar political institutions, the structure and functions of the changing electoral and political party systems, interest group politics, citizen protest and the development of civil society, women's issues, the government-business relationship and the significance of industrial policy during the postwar rapid economic growth period, the policy-making process, the sources and consequences of political corruption, and ongoing efforts to reform the contemporary political economy. These topics will be discussed from a comparative perspective and with reference to political science concepts and theories.

Assignments:

- 1. Quizzes: 15%
- 2. Midterm exam #1 (Feb. 23): 20%
- 3. Midterm exam #2 (Mar. 29): 25%. Instead of the exam, students may write a 6-8 page research paper on a theme relating to Japanese domestic politics. Topics must be approved by the instructor by Mar. 6. Final papers due at noon on Mar. 29.
- 4. Final exam (May 15, 2:00-5:00): 40%

<u>Required Readings</u>: The following texts are available for purchase at the University Coop on Guadalupe:

- 1. Andrew Gordon, *Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present*. Oxford University Press, 2008 (2nd edition).
- 2. Frances Rosenbluth and Michael Thies, *Japan Transformed: Political Change and Economic Structuring* (Princeton University Press, 2010)
- 3. Robin LeBlanc, *Bicycle Citizens: The Political World of the Japanese Housewife*. University of California Press, 1999.
- 4. Jacob M. Schlesinger, *Shadow Shoguns: The Rise and Fall of Japan's Postwar Political Machine*. Sanford University Press, 1999.

All additional readings are available under Documents on the Blackboard site for this course.

Class Guidelines:

- 1. Laptops are not permitted for use in this classroom.
- 2. Students with disabilities are welcome to request appropriate accommodations. Please contact Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6259) and the instructor for further information.
- 3. Students guilty of academic dishonesty (ex., cheating on an exam or plagiarizing a paper) will receive a "0" for the assignment in question. No exceptions. Students are strongly urged to refer to the following link from the Dean of Students for an explanation of what plagiarism is and how it can be avoided: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sis/scholdis_plagiarism.php.
- 4. All lectures and discussions, readings, and films will be subject to examination.
- 5. All quizzes will be administered at 8:00. Make-up quizzes cannot be accommodated. At the end of the semester, your lowest quiz grade will dropped from your total quiz score.
- 6. You are responsible for keeping up with e-mail correspondence with the instructor, as well as notices and other postings on the Blackboard site for this course.
- 7. All assignments must be completed on schedule. Only students with officially documented illnesses or military excuses can be exempted from this rule. Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day.
- 8. PowerPoint presentations are designed to provide you with rough outlines of basic concepts and themes. To do well in this course, you must take detailed notes during lectures and class discussions. Lecture notes and PowerPoint presentations will not be posted on the web.
- 9. You *must* take the final exam during the time-slot designated by the university. Don't make travel arrangements during the exam period until the exam schedule has been finalized!
- 10. I respectfully ask you to arrive for class on time. Please let me know well in advance of unavoidable absences, late arrivals, and early departures from class.

<u>Grading Policy</u>: We will adopt UT's new "plus & minus" grading system in this course. The following is a list of letter grades, their corresponding GPA values, and the percentage values that I plan to use for your assignments.

Letter Grade	GPA	Percentage Score
A	4.0	94-100%
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
В	3.0	84-86
B-	2.67	80-83
C+	2.33	77-79
С	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

Lecture Schedule

Jan. 17: Introduction to the Course

- Rosenbluth & Thies, *Japan Transformed*, Chapter 1.
- "Into the Unknown: A special report on Japan," *The Economist*, November 20, 2010.

Jan. 19 & 24: Party Systems and Policymaking in Prewar Japan

- Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, pp. 61-201.
- Rosenbluth & Thies, Japan Transformed, Chapters 2 & 3.

Jan. 26, 31, Feb. 2 & 7: The Occupation (1945-52)—The Political Legacies of Democratization, Demilitarization, and the "Reverse Course"

- Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, pp. 202-241.
- John W. Dower, "Occupied Japan and the Cold War in Asia," in *Japan in War* & *Peace: Selected Essays* (NY: The New Press, 1993).

Feb. 9, 14, 16 & 21: "The 1955 System"—Political Institutions, Party Competition, and the Secrets of "One Party Dominance"

- Schlesinger, *Shadow Shoguns*, Parts One & Two.
- Rosenbluth & Thies, Japan Transformed, Chapter 4.

Feb. 23: First In-Class Midterm Exam

Feb. 28, Mar. 1 & 6: Interest Groups and the Problem of Structural Corruption

- Chalmers Johnson, "Tanaka Kakuei, Structural Corruption, and the Advent of Machine Politics in Japan, *Journal of Japanese Studies* vol. 12, no. 1 (1986): 1-28.
- Patricia L. Maclachlan, "Post Office Politics in Modern Japan: The Postmasters, Iron Triangles, and the Limits of Reform." *Journal of Japanese Studies*, 30:2 (2004): 281-313.

Mar 8, 20, 22 & 27 (March 13 & 15: Spring Break): Explaining the Postwar "Economic Miracle"—Industrial Policy and the Government-Business Relationship

- Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, pp. 245-88.
- Rosenbluth & Thies, *Japan Transformed*, Chapter 5.
- Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle* (Stanford University Press, 1982), pp. 3-34.
- Frank K. Upham, "Review: The Man Who Would Import: A Cautionary Tale about Bucking the System in Japan," *Journal of Japanese Studies* 17, no. 2 (Summer 1991): 323-43.
- Kent E. Calder, "Elites in an Equalizing Role: Ex-Bureaucrats as Coordinators and Intermediaries in the Japanese Government-Business Relationship," *Comparative Politics* 21, no. 4 (July 1989): 379-403.

Mar. 29: Second In-Class Midterm Exam

Apr. 3 & 5: Women's Issues in Postwar Japanese Politics

■ LeBlanc, Bicycle Citizens, Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 6.

Apr. 10, 12 & 17: Japan's Evolving Civil Society

- LeBlanc, Bicycle Citizens, Chapters 4 & 5.
- Robert Pekkanen, "Japan's New Politics: The Case of the NPO Law," *Journal of Japanese Studies* 26, no. 1 (Winter 2000): 111-48.
- Patricia Maclachlan, "The Struggle for an Independent consumer Society: Consumer Activism and the State's Response in Postwar Japan," in Frank J. Schwartz and Susan J. Pharr, eds., *The State of Civil Society in Japan* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), pp. 214-32.

Apr. 19, 24 & 26: Electoral Reform and the Decline of "One Party Dominance

- Schlesinger, Shadow Shoguns, Part Four.
- Rosenbluth & Thies, Japan Transformed, Chapter 6.

• Margarita Estevez-Abe, "Japan's Shift Toward a Westminster System: A Structural Analysis of the 2005 Lower House Election and Its Aftermath," *Asian Survey* 46, no. 4 (July-August 2006): 632-51.

May 1 & 3: The Politics of Political-Economic Change

- Rosenbluth and Thies, *Japan Transformed*, Chapters 7, 9 & Epilogue.
- Aurelia George Mulgan, "Where Tradition Meets Change: Japan's Agricultural Politics in Transition," *Journal of Japanese Studies* 31, no. 2 (Summer 2005): 261-98.
- Patricia L. Maclachlan, "The Politics and Implications of Japanese Postal Reform: The DPJ Response," in Alisa Gaunder, ed., *Handbook of Japanese Politics* (Routledge, 2011).

Useful Japan-related websites:

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

<u>http://www.kantei.go.jp/foreign/index-e.html</u> (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.mansfieldfdn.org/polls/polls_listing.htm (an up-to-date list of public opinion polls on Japan from the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation)

http://www.mmz.kantei.go.jp/foreign/m-magazine/index.html (subscription information for the Japan Prime Minister's e-mail magazine)

<u>http://www.observingjapan.com/</u> (A cool blog on Japanese politics by Tobias Harris)

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)