

Final Research Paper Due Date

For non-degree candidates (i.e., everyone except graduating seniors), final research papers are due on Tuesday, **May 7 at 2:00pm**. For degree candidates (graduating seniors), final research papers are due on Monday, **May 6 at 2:00pm**.

Course Description

Japan has undergone tremendous transformations in the last 80 years. Between 1944 and 1954, Japan changed from a military state to history's first victim of nuclear weapons to occupied power to vibrant democracy. By the 1980s, Japan's economy had completed a transformation from utter devastation after World War Two into one of the largest economies in the world. More recently, Japanese politics saw another major transformation, as the victory by the Democratic Party of Japan in the 2009 House of Representatives election ended more than 50 years of domination by the Liberal Democratic Party. In this class, we will examine Japan's postwar political system in detail in order to understand both the causes and consequences of these changes.

Sometimes conversations outside Japan about Japan include statements like this: "that is how they do things because they are Japanese, and that is their culture." We will use the analytic tools of political science to critically examine that kind of assumption in two ways. First, we will learn to think about Japanese people as often responding to institutional rules in a way that makes sense once we understand those rules. Second, we will learn to think about Japanese culture as a series of sometimes contradictory practices, ideas, and norms that individuals—even Japanese individuals—often chafe against. Ultimately, we will strive to understand how Japanese politics and society work, and we will use this understanding to deepen our sense of how politics and societies function more generally.

Required Texts / Materials

You are required to have the following textbook for the duration of the class:

Gaunter, Alisa. 2023. *Japanese Politics and Government*. Second edition. London: Routledge.

Both electronic and hard copies will work, but please make sure to get the second edition, because things keep changing in Japanese politics! This book is in the [bookstore](#), and you can also order it from online book sellers (the paperback is fine). If the cost of buying or renting this text is too much for you, please contact me as soon as you can to discuss alternatives.

All other required readings are available on the course's D2L page. I encourage you to bring the book or to print up that day's reading and bring it to class. If you have run out

of free prints from TCU and/or don't have another way to print, please come to my office!

Course Policies and Requirements

Assignments

Reading discussion questions (5% of final grade): Every day with an assigned reading, students are required to post a discussion question about the reading on the relevant threaded discussion on D2L. Discussion questions are due at 9am on the morning we will discuss that reading. Late discussion questions will receive no credit.

Satisfactory discussion questions will earn you a 100 for that day. A discussion question is satisfactory when it demonstrates that you have done the reading and thought about it a bit. Satisfactory questions might be about the overall theme of the reading, about a specific example or quote from the reading, about the implications of the findings and/or methods, etc. Anything is on the table, as long as it is thoughtful, based on the reading, and demonstrates have thought critically about the issues raised by the reading and the course. If you find yourself struggling to understand the reading, you are always welcome to come to my office hours or make an appointment!

If discussion questions suggest that many students are not doing the assigned reading, I will give pop quizzes on the readings that will be averaged into this grade. On some days, you may have short homework or in-class assignments that will be averaged into this grade.

You can skip up to two days of posting questions without penalty, but after that, late or skipped submission will result in a grade of zero for that day.

Current events postings (5% of final grade): One of the purposes of this class is to develop informed opinions about current events in Japanese politics. In addition to the course readings, I expect you to read over one of the news sources linked to the course's D2L site at least twice per week. Moreover, at least six times over the course of the semester, I expect you to write a short post (one paragraph) on the news discussion boards on D2L. Your post should do three things:

- 1) Includes a hyperlink to a recent, credible news story about Japanese politics (if someone else has already linked to a particular story, choose another one).
- 2) Briefly (in 1-2 sentences) summarizes the key elements of the story.
- 3) Briefly (in 1-2 sentences) connect the story to something that we have discussed or read about in class.

You are also welcome to make observations and/or ask discussion questions or clarifying questions about the news posting, and to post responses to the articles that your classmates post.

Current events postings are due by 9am on the day of class. You can post as many times as you want, but only one posting of a new article per student per week will be

counted for credit. I encourage all of you to read one another's postings and reply to them!

Attendance (5% of final grade): This class is much more challenging if you don't attend regularly, and for that reason, I have made attendance count for 5% of your final grade. If you are sick, have an official university absence, or a personal or family situation (whether an emergency or a major event like a family wedding), please email me before the class period after the one that you missed in order to have your absence excused. I respect your privacy so I don't need the details about your illness or your personal or family situation; you can just let me know that you had something going on without going into the specifics.

So, if you are sick for Tuesday's class, remember to email me before class on Thursday. If you do not contact me before the class after you missed, you will get a zero for that day's attendance grade. If you are late to class without explanation, you will get a 50% for that day.

Two analysis papers on course themes (each worth 17% of final grade): Throughout the course, I will distribute four sets of prompts for short analysis papers on course themes. Each of these sets of prompts will ask students to write a short paper that analyzes course materials (and current events too). *Students are required to answer **two** of these prompts.* These papers will be due on at **3:30pm** on **February 15, March 19, April 4,** and **April 30**. Students may only complete two of these papers for credit. If students submit more than two papers, I will only grade the first two, although I will offer feedback on all four.

Quick tips for writing good analysis papers
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Do the course readings carefully and read several Japanese politics-related news articles per week. Have a clear argument and visit my office hours to discuss it.
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Final research paper (39% of final grade): Each student will complete a research project regarding a topic in Japanese politics that interests them. Students are required to turn in a rough draft of their topic and thesis statement by **February 8 at 3:30pm**. The topic and thesis statement is worth 1% of the final course grade, and it will be graded on a credit/no credit basis, meaning if you turn in an acceptable topic and thesis, you will get a 1% boost on your final grade. The rest of the research paper is worth 38% of the final course grade.

Quick tips for writing a good research paper

I strongly encourage students to speak with me about their research paper topics in my office hours. I really enjoy helping students find topics to research that they are interested in! I also invite students to submit partial or complete drafts of research papers any time before the last class (Tuesday, April 30 at 3:30pm). I will read whatever you submit and give you feedback that will help you improve your paper.

The final version of the research paper should be no more than 3,000 words, and it will be due on **Tuesday, May 7 at 2:00pm** (or Monday, May 6 at 2:00pm for degree candidates). Specific assignments for the research paper and the topic and thesis statement will be distributed early in the semester.

Research presentation (12% of final grade): Students will be required to present their research findings to the class on either April 18, April 23, or April 25. I will distribute a specific assignment and presentation schedule early in the semester

Grading

Grades are determined on a 100-point scale as follows:

A: 93.45 and above	B: 82.45-86.44	C: 72.45-76.44	D: 62.45-66.44
A-: 89.45-93.44	B-: 79.45-82.44	C-: 69.45-72.44	D-: 59.45-62.44
B+: 86.45-89.44	C+: 76.45-79.44	D+: 66.45-69.44	F: 59.44 and below

Grade Breakdown

Assignment	Percentage of final grade
Reading discussion questions	5%
Current events postings	5%
In-class reflections	5%
Analysis papers (17% each)	34%
Research paper (38% paper, 1% thesis and topic)	39%
Research presentation	12%

If you feel that you have been graded unfairly on any course assignment, please wait 24 hours after the assignment is returned and then contact me with a typed statement about why you believe you were graded unfairly. This statement must provide substantive reasons why you believe that you were graded unfairly. The appeal process must be started no more than one week after the material was returned.

Extra Credit

If I decide to establish extra credit opportunities, the specifics will be announced in class, posted on D2L, and/or emailed out to all students enrolled in the class. So, come to class, check D2L, and check your TCU email regularly.

Late Work

In general, late assignments lose 10 points (out of 100) per 24 hours late. So, if a paper is due at 3:30pm on Tuesday and you turn it in at 4:30, you will lose 10 points. And if you turn it in after 3:30pm on Wednesday, you will lose 20 points, (and after 3:30 on Thursday, you will lose 30 points... etc.). However, if you miss or are late in submitting any assignment because of an Official University Absence, an illness, or a personal or family emergency, please communicate with me as soon as you can we can discuss rescheduling your work. You don't have to tell me the nature of the illness or emergency; just let me know that you are dealing with an illness or an emergency and we can discuss an alternate deadline for your work. Early communication is key. After

one-week post deadline without communication from you your assignment will be treated as late.

Office Hours

I encourage students to take advantage of my office hours in order to ask questions about the course materials or to chat about issues related to the course or political science more generally. While you are free to drop by without an appointment, if you want to make sure that I will be available right when you drop by, please feel free to sign up for an appointment on the course's D2L site. If you prefer to meet over Zoom, please let me know and I will send you a link. If I am not able to hold in-person office hours at any point, I will email the class and temporarily move office hours to Zoom. If you have classes or other obligations during my office hours and would like to meet with me, please email me to make an appointment.

Policy on Generative AI tools (like ChatGPT)

I'm interested in encouraging your own creativity, and hearing your own ideas and your own voice. Every aspect of your class work—including discussion questions, reading reaction papers, and your capstone paper—must therefore be your own and cannot be created (even partially) by any other person, organization, software, program, or artificial intelligence. Use of any of these elements will be considered a violation of academic integrity and a form of plagiarism.

PowerPoint Slides

Most days in class I will have PowerPoint slides that have three purposes:

1. The slides are meant to help you organize your notes, by showing you what we are discussing and when.
2. The slides might include quotes and/or questions that we will discuss in class.
3. The slides might include photographs, maps, animations, and other types of images to help illuminate class concepts.

The slides are not a transcript of everything that I plan to say in class; they are meant to help you take notes. You will be able to download slides before class (I will have them online a few minutes before class starts) and they will stay up for the whole semester. If you miss a class, you should download the slides, but you should also borrow notes from a classmate. Once you have looked over the notes that you borrowed, feel free to ask me about any points you want clarification on.

Technology Policy

Students wishing to use computers, tablets, or smartphones to take notes in class are requested to use those devices only for class related purposes. I know how tempting it can be to use an electronic device for Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Ravelry (the knitting social networking site), Instagram, TikTok, games, and other fun distractions, but if I catch a student doing so, that student will no longer be permitted to bring his or her electronic device to class. Remember that your primary responsibility at TCU is to learn. If you don't trust yourself to avoid online distractions, I encourage you

to take notes with a pen or pencil. If I catch you using an electronic device for non-class related purposes during class, you will lose permission to use that device in class for the rest of the semester. Students wishing to make audio or video recordings of classes are required to see me to discuss acceptable use of those recordings and to sign a contract indicating that you will use those recordings responsibly. In the absence of written permission, you are not permitted to make audio or video recordings of classes.

TCU Resources and Policy Information

Please use [this link](#) or scan the QR code to the right with a mobile device camera to access policies and resources including support for TCU students, student access and accommodation, anti-discrimination and Title IX information, and other important information.



Daily Schedule

Date	Theme and Assigned Reading
18-Jan	<u>CLASS IS CANCELLED</u>
23-Jan	<i>Welcome and why Japanese politics?</i> Gauder, Chapter 1.
Unit 1: Japan Before 1952	
25-Jan	<i>The Meiji Restoration and the birth of modern Japan</i> Gauder, Chapter 2.
30-Jan	<i>The march to war</i> Dower, John W. 1986. "The War in Western Eyes" and "The War in Japanese Eyes." In <i>War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War</i> . New York: Pantheon Books, pp. 180-200.
1-Feb	<i>Writing and talking about your research</i> Akerman, Erin. 2010. "'Analyze This': Writing in the Social Sciences." In <i>They Say / I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing</i> , edited by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein, 175-192. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.
6-Feb	<i>Occupation</i> Dower, John W. 1999. "Shattered Lives," In <i>Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II</i> . New York: Norton, pp. 33-64. Bass, Gary J. 2023. "75 Years Later, Asia's Wartime Memories Linger." <i>The New York Times</i> , December 21.
8-Feb	<i>The postwar settlement</i> Gauder, Chapter 3.

Date Theme and Assigned Reading

Unit 2: Government in Postwar, Post-Occupation Japan

13-Feb *The rise (and fall?) of the 1955 political system*
Gauder, Chapter 4.

Research paper topic and preliminary thesis due by the beginning of class

15-Feb *Political parties in contemporary Japan*
Gauder, Chapter 5.

First of four analysis papers due (you are required to write two over the course of the semester)

20-Feb *Who supports the opposition?*
Maeda, Ko. 2023. "Balance-Minded Voting in Post-2012 Japan: Why the Largest Opposition Party Receives Votes from Non-Supporters." *Asian Survey* 63 (6):934-951.

22-Feb *Elections and electioneering in Japan*
Gauder, Chapter 6.

27-Feb *Prime Ministerial leadership in Japan*
Gauder, Chapter 11.

29-Feb *Japan's unusual constitution*
McElwain, Kenneth Mori, and Christian G. Winkler. 2015. "What's Unique about the Japanese Constitution? Comparative and Historical Analysis." *Journal of Japanese Studies* 41 (2):249-280.

Unit 3: Identity and Politics in Japan

5-Mar *Japan's "Untouchables"*
Tsutsui, Kiyoteru. 2017. "How do global human rights expand? A case of Japan's Burakumin going global." In *Expanding Human Rights: 21st Century Norms and Governance*, edited by Alison Brysk and Michael Stohl, 35-54. Cheltenham, United Kingdom: Edward Elgar Publishing.

7-Mar **CLASS IS CANCELLED**

12-Mar **SPRING BREAK**

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14-Mar

Date Theme and Assigned Reading

19-Mar *Gender and politics in Japan*
Endo, Yuya, and Yoshikuni Ono. 2023. "Opposition to Women Political Leaders: Gender Bias and Stereotypes of Politicians Among Japanese Voters." *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy* 44 (3):371-386.

Second of four analysis papers due (you are required to write two over the course of the semester)

21-Mar *Zainichi Koreans*
Chung, Erin Aeran. 2010. "Negotiating Korean Identity in Japan." In *Immigration and Citizenship in Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 82-114.

26-Mar *Fights on the right*
Smith, Nathaniel M. 2018. "Fights on the Right: Social Citizenship, Ethnicity, and Postwar Cohorts of the Japanese Activist Right." *Social Science Japan Journal* 21 (2):235-257.

28-Mar *Okinawa and indigenous identity*
Johnson, Akemi. 2019. "Miyo." In *Night in the American Village: Women in the Shadow of the US Military Bases in Okinawa*. New York: The New Press.

Unit 4: Policy Challenges in Japan Today

2-Apr *Japan's economic miracle*
Gauder, Chapter 7.

4-Apr *Economic challenges in contemporary Japan*
Gauder, Chapter 8.

Third of four analysis papers due (you are required to write two over the course of the semester)

9-Apr *Public health and vaccines in Japan*
Gordon, Andrew, and Michael R Reich. 2021. "The Puzzle of Vaccine Hesitancy in Japan." *The Journal of Japanese Studies* 47 (2):411-436.

11-Apr *National security and foreign policy challenges*
Gauder, Chapter 12.

16-Apr *Population decline and immigration*
Strausz, Michael. Forthcoming. "Shy Foreign Labor Supporters? Immigration and Japan's 2019 House of Councilors Election." In *An Island is not an Island: Perspectives on Immigration in Japan*, edited by Michael Strausz. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Date Theme and Assigned Reading

- 18-Apr *Japan: the harbinger state*
Lipsy, Phillip Y. 2023. "Japan: The Harbinger State." *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 24 (1):80-97.
- 23-Apr *Student research presentations*
No assigned reading.
- 25-Apr *Student research presentations*
No assigned reading.
- 30-Apr *Student research presentations*
No assigned reading.

Fourth of four analysis papers due (you are required to write two over the course of the semester)

- 7-May **Research paper due at 2pm (for graduating seniors, the deadline is Monday, May 6 at 2pm)**