

**Advanced Seminar in Japanese Politics and Society**

AS 3300/Gov 3400

Monday and Wednesday 2.50-4.15 pm

**Henry Laurence**

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Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Friday 2-4 pm

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Japan is undergoing profound transformation of its political, economic, and social structures. Many commentators argue that the changes under way represent as significant a shift in national direction as the Meiji Restoration of 1868 or the Allied Occupation of 1945. Others argue that the reforms we are seeing represent superficial changes rather than a fundamental restructuring of Japanese life. This course attempts to make sense of those changes, looking at Japanese politics and economics both “top down” from the perspective of political and economic elites, and also “bottom up” from the perspective of those on the margins of Japanese society.

A major intellectual goal of the course is to learn how to make a well-supported and analytically rigorous argument, both orally and on paper. Special attention will be paid to developing your own “voice”, and to use the readings as stepping boards to your own contribution, rather than simply as texts to be mastered. An intended end-product will be a first-rate research paper that you will be able to use as a writing sample for years to come.

**Readings**

Most of the readings will be on Blackboard. Where available, the collections/books from which articles or chapters are taken will be on 2-hour reserve and H&L.

**Requirements:**

1) **Attend all sessions, do the reading, and participate actively in all discussions.** Please remember that both the quality and the quantity of your contribution are important.

2) **Current events.** You should follow events in Japan. The Nikkei Weekly, Daily Yomiuri, Asahi or Japan Times are suggested. We will discuss the week's events every Wednesday, and at that time one student will be responsible for presenting "News Story of the Week"

3) **Three (3) short (2-3 page) papers:** you may choose which topic and when to write. One must be done by week 4 (2/18), two by Spring Break, and three by the end of the third week after Spring Break.

They should engage in any aspect of the assigned readings or class discussions and make an argument. (It may but need not draw on other sources.) Each should be entirely free from factual, logical, grammatical, and typographical errors. No rewrites.

4) **Presentations.** The final weeks of class have been left open to allow each participant to choose a topic, case, or issue of particular interest and to present and lead discussion on the topic. Each student will be responsible for an entire class period. These presentations may be about your research paper but need not be.

You must (1) prepare a short (1-page max) handout or email discussing your topic and suggesting questions, discussion points, etc., *at least 2 days ahead of* your scheduled presentation at the latest) and (2) assign and distribute reading(s) for the class, *one week ahead of time*.

5) **Research Paper.** About 12-15 pages, longer if you'd like.

1) A 2 page prospectus outlining a topic, framing the question, and giving an at-least 5-source bibliography is due in class on the third Monday after Spring Break

2) The final version is due at 5.00 pm on the day of when the final exam is due. No extensions.

**Grading** Note: grading seminars is an art, not a science. The following is an approximate guide to how the various requirements will be graded.

Class participation	30%
Short 3 page papers (10% each)	30%
Class presentation/discussion	20%
Research paper	20%

### Provisional Class Schedule Spring 2019

\* indicates reading on blackboard

All other readings are available through the library website.

[ Square brackets indicate readings recommended for papers, general interest, etc., but not required for class discussion.]

1/23 W	Intro Session	
1/28 M	The 1955 system	TJ Pempel “Regime Shift” <i>Journal of Japanese Studies</i> 33.2 Summer 1997  [TJ Pempel “Between Pork and Productivity” <i>Journal of Japanese Studies</i> 36(2) 2010]
1/30 W	Abe and the fall and rise of the LDP	Pekkanen, Robert “The 2012 Japanese Election Paradox: How the LDP lost Voters and Won the Election” National Bureau of Asian Research < <a href="http://www.nbr.org">www.nbr.org</a> > 2012  Iwakuni, Tetsundo “Governance Crisis in Japan” in Youngshik and Pempel (Eds) <i>Japan in Crisis</i> (Asan Institute for Policy Studies, 2012)
2/4 M	3.11 events	* Jeff Kingston (ed) <i>Natural Disaster and Nuclear Crisis in Japan: Response and Recovery after 3/11</i> (Routledge 2012) Intro, Chs 1, 10, 11, 15
2/6 W	3.11 Meaning	* Selections on BB from <i>Financial Times</i> and <i>Guardian</i> about 3/11 and Japanese culture.  Ota, Masakatsu “The Fukushima Nuclear Crisis and its political and social implications” in Youngshik and Pempel (Eds) <i>Japan in Crisis</i> (Asan Institute for Policy Studies, 2012)  [*Kenji Kushida “The DPJ’s Political Response to Fukushima” Ch 14 in Kushida and Lipsy (ed) <i>Japan Under the DPJ</i> (Stanford) 2013] [*Kawato, Pekkanen and Tsujinaka “Civil Society and the Triple Disaster”]
2/11 M	Inequality and precarity	* Noble, Greg “Japan’s Economic Crisis” in Youngshik and Pempel (Eds) <i>Japan in Crisis</i> (Asan Institute for Policy Studies, 2012) *Allison <i>Precarious Japan</i> Chs 1, 2 5 [David Chiavacci “Divided Society Model” <i>Contemporary Japan</i> 22 (2010)]
2/13 W	Youth and Hope	Allison <i>Precarious Japan</i> Ch 3 * Leheny <i>Empire of Hope</i> Ch 1

2/18 M	Gender	<p>* Robin LeBlanc “Politics of Gender” <i>Routledge Handbook of Japanese Culture</i> 2011</p> <p>* Anne Allison <i>Permitted and Prohibited Desires</i> Chs 4 and 5 (skim)</p>
2/20 W		
2/25 M Paper 1 due	Gender and the birthrate	<p>* Gelb &amp; Paley Ch 5</p> <p>* Hiroko Takeda "Gender-related Social Policy" - Schoppa <i>Race for the Exits</i> Chs 1 and 2 (skip pp 23-27)</p> <p>Ch 3 pp 58-66 (rest of the chapter is interesting how the firm-based welfare system worked)</p> <p>Ch 4 pp 73-79 and 88-97</p> <p>Ch 5 p. 98</p> <p>Ch 7 pp 150-182</p>
2/27 W	Immigration	<p>*Jeff Kingston “Demographic Dilemmas” pp 195-197 (on BB.)</p> <p>Arnab Dasgupta “Japan’s Immigration Policy: turned corner or cul-de-sac” <i>The Diplomat</i> Feb 21st 2019  <a href="https://thediplomat.com/2019/02/japans-immigration-policy-turned-corner-or-cul-de-sac/">https://thediplomat.com/2019/02/japans-immigration-policy-turned-corner-or-cul-de-sac/</a></p> <p><i>Asahi Shimbun</i> “Law on Foreign Labour Still a Policy filled with huge holes” Dec 8th 2018  <a href="http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201812080021.html">http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201812080021.html</a></p> <p>Makoto Rich “Bucking Trend, Japan seeks more immigrants” <i>New York Times</i> 7th December 2018  <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/07/world/asia/japan-parliament-foreign-workers.html">https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/07/world/asia/japan-parliament-foreign-workers.html</a></p> <p><i>Japan Times</i> "Deep Dive" Podcast #4 “Japan’s Changing Demographics”  <a href="https://www.japantimes.co.jp/podcast/episode-4-japans-changing-demographics/#.XHV0Ti2ZPQw">https://www.japantimes.co.jp/podcast/episode-4-japans-changing-demographics/#.XHV0Ti2ZPQw</a></p>
3/4 M	Nihonjinron and politics	Rosenbluth and Thies Ch 2
3/6 W	Instilling culture	<i>Takarazuka</i>
<b>Spring Break</b>		

Paper 2 due 3/8		
3/25 M	Cool Japan: Stories	Murakami Haruki and others, selected stories
3/27 W	Cool Japan: Politics	* Leheny “A Narrow Place to Cross Swords” in <i>Beyond Japan</i> 2006 *Cool Japan Advisory Council “Creating a New Japan” Proposal 2011 Henry Laurence “Will Pokemon Go [*Galia Press-Barnathan “Does Pop Culture Matter to IR?”]
4/1 M	Creative Industries and washoku	Ted Bestor “Washoku, Far and Near” in Nancy Stalker (ed) <i>Devouring Japan: Global Perspectives on Japanese Culinary Identity</i> Oxford Scholarship Online 2018
4/3 W	Nationalism	* Kingston “One Hand Clapping” (2004) *McNeil “Remanufacturing Consent: Nationalism and Popular Culture” in <i>Press Freedom</i> (2014) [*Yamaguchi “Xenophobia in Action: Ultrnationalism and the Internet” <i>Radical History Review</i> no. 117 Fall 2013]
4/8 M		
4/10 W	The international politics of apologies	* Berger “The Politics of Memory” Jennifer Lind “The Perils of Apology” <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 88(3) (2009) Motoko Rich “Japan Balks at Calls for New Apology” <i>NYT</i> 1/12/2018 [Ezra Vogel “History Overshadows Japan-China Relations” <i>Japan Times</i> 1/1/2014] [“A (very) short history of Japan’s War Apologies” <i>Washington Post</i> 8/13/2015]
4/15 M	Yakuza WinR (C+E)	Jake Adelstein The Last Yakuza <i>World Policy Journal</i> Vol 27. No 2 Summer 2010
4/17 W Prospectus Due	Workshop on papers	
4/22 M Paper 3 Due	Individual conferences	
4/24 W	Presentations	1 & 2

4/29 M	Week in Review (C+B)	
5/1 W	Presentations	3 & 4
5/6 M	Presentations	5 & 6
5/8 W	Final Session	7