

Political Science 3460-001
Government and Politics of Japan
Spring 2006

Dean W. Collinwood, Ph.D.
Research Associate, Political Science Department
Office: US Japan Center, 825 North 300 West, Suite 112
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103
Telephone: 801-519-2586 Email: ibi@qwest.net

Class Meetings: OSH 137 Thursdays 6:05 – 8:35 p.m.
Final Exam: OSH 137, 8:30-10:00 p.m. Thursday, May 4
Research Paper due: April 20
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Overview: This course admits you to the exciting, and sometimes baffling, world of Japanese politics. When you complete this course of lectures and readings, you will understand the politics of Japan as they are embedded in the historical and cultural foundations of Japan, and as they are matrixed with other world players. Although the emphasis is on modern Japan, e.g., the current Koizumi administration, the rise, fall, and revival of the Liberal Democratic Party, etc., we will also examine the philosophies of life and certain historical happenings which have shaped the politics and government we see today.

Course Requirements: You will take a mid-term and a final exam, both of which are mostly essay, but with some objective questions included. You will also choose a topic—one of the issues that Japanese politicians and other decision-makers are trying to solve—and write a formal research paper on that topic. I invite you to discuss your topic idea with me before you begin. The specific requirements of the paper will be reviewed in class and in a hand-out. Near the end of the semester, you will be asked to make an oral classroom presentation of your findings, so try to finish the bulk of your paper two weeks before the final exam. The completed written paper is due on the last lecture day. The mid-term exam is 33% of your grade; the research paper is 33%; and the final exam is 33%. It is possible that one “pop” quiz or other written assignment will be given. It will be unannounced, cannot be made up, and will be used only for extra credit to improve your grade.

Required text and readings: (1) Dean W. Collinwood, *Global Studies: Japan and the Pacific Rim*, 8th ed., McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2005. (2) “Japan,” chapter in Michael J. Sodaro, *Comparative Politics: A Global Introduction*, McGraw-Hill, 2001 (available on electronic reserve). (3) You are also required to read weekly from the online NBR Japan Forum, about which I will explain in class: www.nbr.org/forums/. Then click on “Japan-U.S. Discussion Forum.” As the course progresses, I may assign you additional readings from the world press. The content from all assigned readings will be covered on the exams.

Recommended book: For additional details on specific political parties, I recommend you refer to (4) Ronald J. Hrebendar, *Japan’s New Party System*, Westview Press, 2000, available in the library. I will likely recommend other books and articles as we go along.

Class style: Most classes will consist of lectures by me and group discussion of the key issues presented. The more you speak up in class the better. We may have a guest speaker during the semester, and some class sessions will include videos: “American Game; Japanese Rules,” “Nippon Since 1945: Being Japanese,” and “Nippon: The Land and Its People, Japanese Technology.”

Special needs: The U. seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities, so if you have a visual, auditory, or other need, please see me to make arrangements. If you will need special accommodations in the class, you should give reasonable prior notice to the Center for Disability Service (CDS), 162 Olpin Union, tel 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and me to make arrangements. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the CDS.

Contact me: Please use the telephone and email addresses above. By far, email is the best way to reach me. If I need to drop something off to you, it will be in the Will Call Box in the Political Science Department office in OSH 252.

Instructor profile: I earned my PhD from the University of Chicago where I was in both the Political Science and Education Departments. My Master of Science in International Relations is from the University of London, England, and my Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a Japanese minor is from Brigham Young University. In 1986-87, I was a Fulbright Scholar at Tokyo University and at Tsuda Women’s College. I formerly directed the Center for International Business (CIBER) in the Business School at the U., where I was also Research Professor of Management. I now direct the Global Business Development Center, a private organization that houses GLOBUS Inc., an international business consulting firm, the US Japan Center, the US China Center, and the Asia Pacific Council. In 2004 I ran for the Utah Senate (and lost), having previously run for the Utah House (and lost).

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

This schedule is a rough outline of what we will cover; it can change any moment. Therefore, it is very important that you attend class faithfully to keep up to date with new reading or other assignments.

Jan 12 and 19: Japan in Context: Asia, America, Europe: Geography; East and West Worldviews; Japan's international relations; the business challenge: JPR pp. xiv-18 and 19-25, and 131-132 (Japan's ODA).

Jan 26 and Feb 2: Legacy of Confucius; Shinto and Bukkyo: JPR pp. 25-33 and 141-142 (Women Moving Out), and 193 (Marriage), and 181-182 (Farmers).

Feb 9 and 16: Key Markers in Japanese Political History: JPR pp. 29-33 and 133-134 (United East Asia), and 169-171 (Homeless).

Feb 23 and Mar 2: Constitutions; Elections; Cabinet System: CP pp. 543-556 on electronic and hard copy reserve, and 139-140 (Japan's Aging Society).

March 9: MID-TERM EXAM: Regular class time. Bring Blue Books.

March 16: No class: Spring Break

March 23 and 30: The Liberal Democratic Party; the Bureaucracy: CP pp. 556-574, and JPR pp.153-154 (Japan Can Say Yes), and 184-187 (Japan's English Lessons).

April 6 and April 13: Ideology; Opposition Parties: CP pp. 575-586, and 137-138 (Anime), and 188-190 (Women's Universities).

April 20: Oral Presentations; the final written paper (hard copy) should be turned in this day at the end of class.

May 4: FINAL EXAM 8:30-10:00 pm