

23050 DEBATING THE POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES

INSTRUCTOR: Takakazu Yamagishi

COURSE DESCRIPTION

American Studies. Conducted both in Japanese and English, the main aim of this course is to compare and discuss the political systems of Japan and the United States. The issues discussed include: the Japanese parliamentary system vs. the American presidential system; the American jury system vs. the Japanese jury system; inter-governmental relations in Japan vs. those of the United States. This class holds a debate competition (in Japanese) on November 18 (Wed) with students of Meijo University (Nagoya).

Your Japanese proficiency level must be 4, 5 or 6, but no prior knowledge of Japanese politics is required. The most important thing is the desire to study about Japan and engage in group-oriented activities, such as debates and group presentations. You can expect to receive a lot of help regarding your Japanese skills from Japanese students (who have good English skills), and similarly you are expected to help Japanese students improve their English skills. Please feel free to ask questions by email.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- Week 1 Class introduction
- Week 2 Rough picture of Japan and the United States
- Week 3 History matters: Constitutions of Japan and the United States
- Week 4 Japanese emperor/prime minister vs. American president
- Week 5 Japanese parliamentary system vs. American presidential system
- Week 6 Japanese bureaucracy vs. American bureaucracy
- Week 7 Japanese jury system vs. American jury system
- Week 8 Intergovernmental relations of Japan and the United States
- Week 9 Social policies of Japan and the United States
- Week 10 Foreign policies of Japan and the United States
- Week 11 Racial policy of Japan and the United States
- Week 12 Party politics of Japan and the United States
- Week 13 Interest group politics of Japan and the United States
- Week 14 Conclusion

TEXTS

Textbook:

J. A. A. Stockwin, *Governing Japan*, 4th edition (Boston: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008) (which students purchase)

David Canon, John Coleman, and Kenneth Mayer eds., *The Enduring Debate: Classic and Contemporary Readings in American Politics*, 3rd ed. (New York: W.W. Norton, 2003) (article copies will be distributed)

ASSESSMENT

Attendance 40%; Presentation 20%; Class Participation 40%