

**Political Science 327: Topics in Comparative Politics: Politics and Culture in Post-1945
China and Japan**

Fall 2006
Office: Comenius 104
Office Ph.: 610-861-1418

Professor Lisa Fischler
Email: fischler@moravian.edu
Class: W,F 4 (11:25 am-12:35 pm)

Office Hours: T, Th 2:00-3:30 pm and other times by appointment.

Course Description

This course looks at the relationship between politics and culture comparatively in China and Japan during the 20th and 21st centuries. The course's focus will be the scholarly texts, literature, visual media, symbols, rituals, and art that shaped the cultures of National Socialism, Communism, and Democracy. The aesthetics of national movements, art as politics, education as moral socialization, and the rich depth of public cultural displays (norms, values, and symbols) for state legitimation goals are topics examined by the course to better understand how literature, visual arts, architecture, education, theater, film, and daily life are closely linked to modern Japanese and Chinese politics.

Goals and Objectives

- Broaden knowledge about the possible range of political institutions, political behavior, political groups, and political problems in China and Japan.
- Comprehend enough about the relationship between politics and culture in modern and contemporary China and Japan to offer intelligent, critical, and well-informed explanations for similarities and differences in the political life of these countries and to better understand the significance of these similarities and differences.
- Develop understanding of comparative questions and criticisms as concerns the relationship between the nations of East Asia.
- Improve critical reasoning about politics in non-Western contexts.
- Enhance research abilities and oral and written communication skills concerning East Asian politics.

Course Guidelines

1. All work must be submitted on due date for full credit. **Late assignments are NOT accepted.**

2. All assignments must be typed, double-spaced, printed, stapled, use complete sentences, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation. All assignments must be personally handed to the instructor. No handwritten assignments will be accepted. No emailed assignments will be accepted **except in case of emergencies and not without prior permission of the instructor.**

3. Regular attendance is expected. Assigned work can only be made up 1) after an in-person discussion with the instructor AND 2) in cases of **appropriately documented** family emergencies, extended leave, or school sponsored-commitments. **Health Center notes are NOT considered appropriate documentation.** If an emergency should arise, you must notify me prior to an assignment's due date and not after. If you plan to miss a class please notify me in advance. Students are allowed a maximum of three absences within this semester. If you miss class more than the allowed times, 5% will be deducted from your final course grade. Another 5% will be deducted from your final course grade for each additional absence. Two late arrivals to class will be counted as an absence. Please be aware that absences are not divided into excused and unexcused. Regardless of the reason, an absence from class is counted as an absence.

4. In case of any crisis or emergency, or an extended absence from class, you must inform your professor through Learning Services or the Academic Dean's Office.

5. Learning disability accommodations: students who wish to request accommodations in this class for support of learning disabilities should contact Learning Services (x1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the appropriate disability support provider on campus.

6. These guidelines are intended for the benefit of the students as far as clarification of the instructor's expectations for the course; however, in exceptional circumstances the instructor reserves the right to exercise discretion in the application of these guidelines to individual cases or to refer a particular case to the Academic Dean if necessary.

Classroom Expectations

- 1) Respect for others' answers and views. Disruptive behavior during class will result in your dismissal from the class the first time, after that, disciplinary action will be taken.
- 2) Equal time for opposing opinions.
- 3) Please turn off cell phones in class. If yours rings during class, you will be dismissed from class and counted as absent.
- 4) Non-alcoholic drinks are allowed in class, other food is not.
- 5) Attention to course related material only.
- 6) Necessary breaks at the discretion of the instructor.

Required Texts

- Merry Isaacs White, *Perfectly Japanese: Making Families in an Era of Upheaval* (CA: University of California Press, 2002).
- Neil J. Diamant, *Revolutionizing the Family* (CA: University of California Press, 2000).
- T. Fujitani, *Splendid Monarchy* (CA: University of California Press, 1996).
- Peter Hays Gries and Stanley Rosen, eds., *State and Society in 21st-Century China* (NY: Routledge/Curzon, 2004).

- Stephen Vlastos, ed. *Mirror of Modernity: Invented Traditions of Modern Japan* (CA: University of California Press, 1998).

Course Requirements

A. Graded Requirements (Note: all parts of the research paper must be turned in, and be on time, in order to get credit on the entire paper):

Class Participation-25% of your final grade. Class participation includes coming to class on a very consistent basis, keeping up with assigned readings by thoroughly reading and thinking about the readings before coming to class, active involvement in interactive lectures, substantive contributions to discussions, and engagement with in-class activities. For class participation, **effort counts heavily. Attempting to answer a question, asking a question, or voicing an opinion are all part of participation.** I will evaluate your participation highly if you: a) attend class regularly; b) discuss the videos and readings I make available; c) raise relevant questions/offer thoughtful comments; d) demonstrate you understand the material by your full involvement during in-class activities. Every class session is counted toward your final participation grade. **If you do not participate actively in each class, you will reduce your participation grade by 50% for each given day.**

Class Presentation/Discussion-15% of your final grade. Each student will lead discussion for part of a class session (20-25 minutes). Dates for leading discussion will be chosen in the first week of class from a list provided by the instructor. On the day you are to lead class discussion, you will need to bring enough copies for each person in the class of a one page (maximum) handout that includes: the main thesis of the assigned reading in your own words; a statement of why a certain point of the author's is central to understanding politics and culture in post-1945 China OR Japan; how and why you disagree with the conceptual or analytical approach taken in the reading; and three open-ended discussion questions (questions that ask "how," "why," or "in what ways") that you will use to begin and continue discussion. The second part of your leading discussion must be an activity designed by you, and involving the class and the instructor, that teaches the significance or importance of the reading for the political future of China OR Japan. You will need to meet with the instructor one week prior to your presentation to discuss your plans for leading discussion and to obtain the instructor's approval for your plan.

Papers- There will be two papers in this class, each of which is 20% of your grade. Both papers will consist of two drafts—a preliminary and a final draft. The preliminary draft will be worth 10%; the final draft will also be worth 10% (for a total of 20%). The first paper will be an analysis of one of the political legitimation projects in the readings from weeks one through four. The preliminary draft of Paper I will be due in week five; the final draft of Paper I in week seven. The second paper will be a comparative analysis of the perspectives (e.g. of political actors in the state and society) and conflicts involved in one of the political legitimation projects in the readings covered in weeks five through nine. The preliminary

draft of Paper II will be due in week ten; the final draft of Paper II in week twelve. Guidelines on these papers will be handed out in the second week.

Final Project-20% of your final grade. The final project will consist of designing your own political legitimization project for 21st century China or Japan. The central questions to be answered by this project are 1) how you would propose to bring about change in the nations of China or Japan to better prepare them for the 21st century and 2) how you will legitimate the changes you plan to implement. Plans for change can target laws, policies, founding documents, ideologies, or other political projects, but need to be approved by the instructor through a written, two-page proposal due in week four. This initial proposal also will need to include details as to the strategies, methods, or tactics by which you plan to legitimate your plan. A written, three page update on your final project will be due in week eight. A final, written, 5 page report will be due in week fourteen. Oral presentations (10 minutes) on the results of your own legitimization plan will be given in class during week fourteen.

Pop quizzes-If class discussions do not yield evidence of careful reading and thought, I may administer unannounced (“pop”) quizzes. These quizzes will be factored in as part of your participation grade (20 points each). These quizzes will help me determine if quiet students are keeping silent because they are shy or because they are not keeping up with the reading assignments. **There will be no make-up quizzes.**

B. Grade Components

Your final grade in this course will be determined as follows:

Class Participation	25%
Paper I	20%
Paper II	20%
Class Presentation	15%
Final Project	<u>20%</u>
	100%

Guidelines (Rubric) for Written Assignments

(Written by Ben Slote and modified slightly by Ann Bomberger)

1) Written work in the A range is based on an original, logical and coherently organized set of ideas; it makes a clear and persuasive argument (even if the reader disagrees with its argument); it brings in specific, relevant examples to back up its assertions; its points, at each turn, are clearly articulated: the words carry precise meaning, they don't obscure it; its sentences use only the words their ideas require, not any more; its paragraphs have distinct though related roles in the essay's cohesion as a whole, each holding one thoroughly asserted idea (not two competing ideas, not one idea half-asserted); if appropriate it accurately and thoughtfully uses other sources; and its sentences are without the grammatical, spelling, or typographical mistakes that exacting proof-reading would catch. (All of this takes a lot of work. If it is all very nearly accomplished, the essay usually earns an A-.)

2) Written work in the B range: a very good paper, the writing of which is clearly,

thoughtfully, and effectively executed. What sometimes prevents an "A" is a lack of originality, thorough thinking or careful proofreading. If two of these virtues are absent and the other areas of the paper are strong, the essay will usually earn a B-.

3) Written work in the C range: some conspicuous flaw usually earns an essay a C; its argument is really underdeveloped, it contains only minimal textual support, it has problems with organization and/or sentence clarity, it is in dire need of proofreading.

4) Written D work either contains more than one of the large problems cited in the "C" description or finds another way to convince its reader that the author has not spent nearly enough time on the thinking or writing in the essay.

5) Written work that earns an F misses on all criteria (originality, articulateness, persuasiveness, organization, the absence of mechanical mistakes).

Final Grade Scale (in percentage, not points)

93-100	A
90-92.9	A-
87-89.9	B+
83-86.9	B
80-82.9	B-
77-79.9	C+
73-76.9	C
70-72.9	C-
67-69.9	D+
63-66.9	D
60-62.9	D-
less than 60	F

Note: It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for any assignment and for the course final grade.

Academic Honesty Policy

All students are expected to follow the principles of academic honesty as set out in the policies of Moravian College. See the Student Handbook for details. Any and all written work must be done in your own words (with the exception of direct quotations which are clearly indicated as such), and written work must include proper citations indicating the sources for any ideas, concepts, facts, or other information derived from others, whether or not you have restated it in your own words. Any cases of suspected cheating or plagiarism will be referred to the Academic Affairs Office. Academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade in the course.

Schedule and Assignments (Schedule may be changed at the discretion of the instructor; advance notice will be given)

* You will be expected to spend 2 1/2-3 hours on work outside of class for every hour in class.

*Be sure to bring books for assigned readings to class each day. Your participation grade for a class session may depend on your bringing the correct books to class.

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings & Assignments Due
1: W 8/30	Introduction-Syllabus Review & Legitimation Tour	None
1: F 9/1	What is Political Legitimation?	Fujitani, Ch. 1; Vlastos, pp. 1-16; Gries, pp. 6-9 “Between Heaven and Earth” Write up on Legitimation Tour due
Sept. 4. 2006	Labor Day	No Classes
2: W 9/6	Political Legitimation & Art	Gries, Ch. 10: Vlastos, Ch. 3
2: F 9/8	Inventing Tradition: Capitals and Time	Fujitani, pp. 31-66; White, pp. 1-9
3: W 9/13	Making the National: Capitals and Space	Fujitani, pp. 66-92; Vlastos, Ch. 17
3: F 9/15	Making the National: Constitutions and Family Rituals	Fujitani, pp. 95-121; Diamant, pp. 1-24
4: W 9/20	Disciplining the Nation: Military, Memorials, & Family	Fujitani, pp. 121-145; Diamant, pp. 42-56
4: F 9/22	Unifying the Nation: Ideal Families & National Prosperity	Fujitani, pp. 145-154; Diamant, pp. 30-63 Proposals for Final Project due
5: W 9/27	Gendering the Nation: Modernity and Masculinity	Fujitani, Ch. 4; Vlastos, Ch. 13 Paper I first draft due

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings & Assignments Due
5: F 9/29	Gendering the Nation: The Law and Marriage	Diamant, pp. 64-87; Vlastos, Ch. 4
6: W 10/4	Imagined Communities: From Folk to Masses	Fujitani, Ch. 5; Vlastos, Ch. 10
6: F 10/6	Real Communities: From Marriage to Divorce	Diamant, pp. 97-127
Oct. 9 & 10, 2006	Fall Break	No Classes
7: W 10/11	Conflicts Between “Tradition” and “Modernity” I	White, pp. 56-96
7: F 10/13	Conflicts Between “Tradition” and “Modernity” II	Diamant, pp. 128-166 Paper I final draft due
8: W 10/18	Politics of Everyday (Urban) Life	Diamant, pp. 177- 198; 204-213
8: F 10/20	Politics and Everyday (Urban) Life	White, Ch. 5 Final Project update due
9: W 10/25	Politics and Everyday Rural Life	Diamant, pp. 226- 267; Vlastos, pp. 67- 79
9: F 10/27	Relegitimating the State: Politics, Sex, and the Family	Diamant, Ch. 7; Vlastos, Ch. 14
10: W 11/1	Relegitimating the State: Filial Piety and the Elderly	White, Ch. 6 & pp. 205-212 Paper II first draft due
10: F 11/3	Legitimation: Consumerism and Idealized Families	White, Ch. 7; Vlastos, Ch. 16
11: W 11/8	Legitimation, Protest and National Crisis	Gries, Ch. 1;

Class Session Date	Topic	Assigned Readings & Assignments Due
11: F 11/10	Legitimacy and Ethnic Identity	Gries, Ch. 11; Vlastos, Ch. 15
12: W 11/15	Legitimizing Protest & Nostalgia for the Past I	Gries, Ch. 3; Vlastos, Ch. 12
12: F 11/17	Legitimizing Protest and Nostalgia for the Past II	Gries, Ch. 4; Vlastos, Ch. 8 Paper II final draft due
Nov. 22, 23, 24, 2006	Thanksgiving Break	No Classes
13: W 11/29	Legitimizing Democratization?	Gries, Ch. 5
13: F 12/1	Legitimately Contesting State Legitimacy?	Gries, Ch. 6
14: W 12/6	State Strategies for Survival in the 21st Century I	Gries, Ch. 7; Vlastos, Ch. 18 Final project written report due Final projects presentations in class
14: F 12/8	State Strategies for Survival in the 21 st Century II	Gries, Ch. 8
Final Exams	Dec. 13-16; 18-19	