

Tetsuya TOYODA

Academic year: 2020
Semester: Spring
Faculty: International Liberal Arts
Department: Basic Education
Field: Social Sciences
Credit: 3.00
Class time/day: Tue : 12:30 - 13:45 D203
Thu : 12:30 - 13:45 D203
E-mail: toyoda@aiu.ac.jp
Office: C1-2
Office hours: Wednesdays 16:00-19:00
Notes:

Course description:

The main subject matter of this course is Japanese "constitutionalism" under the 1946 Constitution, which is deeply embedded in the context of Japanese political history: the Surrender of 1945 and the subsequent US Occupation. The past is part of the future. This course should give students insights into the challenge of the Constitution and constitutionalism in the Japanese political context today.

Objectives:

This course has two primary goals:

1. Students will acquire basic knowledge of the historical and present features of the Japanese constitutional system.
2. Students will be able to present their own opinions on the future of the Constitution and constitutionalism in this country.

Textbook(s):

Author: -
Title: Course materials will be provided.
Publisher: -
ISBN: -

Reference/Other study materials:

None.

Assessment:

1st in-class essay test 10 points
2nd in-class essay test 20 points
Active participation 20 points
Case reports 10 points
Final exam 40 points
Comprehension quizzes for extra points

Expected academic background:

None. Basics of Japanese language and history will be useful, but not indispensable.

URL of other information:

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Policies & remarks:

With assigned readings, students are expected to learn by themselves outside the classroom. The class activities are designed to improve presentation and discussion skills, stimulate reflections and clear up misunderstandings. The use of the laptop in the classroom is encouraged, except at the tests and exam. At the tests and exam, students can use the reading materials as well as the dictionary (electronic or not), but not the laptop, cell phone or other electronic devices (except the stand-alone electronic dictionary).

Notes:

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Class schedule:

April 9

Introductory discussion: "You don't need democracy if you always believe in the Government."

April 14 and 16

The 1889 Constitution as a text of modern constitutionalism

April 21 and 23

Failed democracy and the collapse of the constitutional system: Japan in 1930s

April 28

1st in-class essay test and review

May 7, 12 and 14

The 1946 Constitution as a post-war product

May 19 and 21

Constitutional pacifism in evolution

May 26 and 28

Democracy and demagoguery, leadership and dictatorship

June 2 and 4

Judicial authority and the constitutional protection of human rights

June 9 and 11

Review discussion and the 2nd in-class essay test

June 16

Japanese judicial procedure in brief

June 18

group work for group presentations

June 23, 25, 30

Student presentations (case reports)

July 2

Review of the case reports

July 7, 9, 14 and 16

Student presentations (comparative studies)

July 21

concluding discussion

July 28, 12:30-15:00

Final Exam (In case of time conflicts, students can take the exam at 19:15-21:45 on Tuesday 28)

AIU Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Acts of Academic Dishonesty: In accordance with AIU policies and good practices in higher education, acts of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating, forgery (on a paper, examination, test, or other assignment) will result in the failure of the course at a minimum.

An act of academic dishonesty during the final examination or assignment in lieu of the final examination will result in failure of all courses registered in the relevant academic term.

Cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs for relevant action.