

## Evolution of Cooperation and Development (A&B)

### Section 1

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#### 【Course Outline / Description】

This course examines, through a global and multi-disciplinary approach, some of the fundamental issues emerging from the broad study of human society of which we all belong to. In doing so, we will be covering the fields of anthropology, geography, ecology, economics, psychology, sociology, socio-biology, and political science. In each of our sections we will be discussing the main questions stemming from the respective fields, and explanation of the best answers to those questions to date. More specifically, we will be covering what the social sciences have to say about how and why societies cooperate, and sometime not, and why some societies are developed, while others are less so. Lastly, each class we will be addressing at least one question in relation to Japan/East Asia, as a way in which to better understand the generalizable lessons of that week in the context of contemporary issues

### Section 2

#### 【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

Upon completing this class, students should be able to:

- Analyze and explain the key features of social cooperation and development, from an interdisciplinary, generalizable perspective.
- Engage in basic research tasks using online databases and other resources.
- Construct arguments, using data/evidence appropriately.

Furthermore, this course is designed to help students:

- Develop thinking, learning and communication skills.
- Develop skills in identifying, accessing and evaluating sources of information.

### Section 3

#### 【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Note: Each week consists of two classes, one will be “on-time,” with one being asynchronous. For the asynchronous classes, I will upload slides with audio, or assign a specific task/documentary.

Lecture 1	Course Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: Define social science and explain its importance; why are the social sciences often referred to as the hard(est) sciences?</li> <li>- No scheduled readings</li> </ul>
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Lecture 2	How to think (and make decisions) like a scientist (Part I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: The ‘Scientific Method’ and use/creation of ‘models’ for explaining and predicting human behavior; causal relationships + causal mechanisms; qualitative analysis</li> <li>- Hunt and Colander (pp. 1-22)</li> <li>- Optional: Konnikova (2013) ‘Mastermind: How to Think like Sherlock Holmes.’ (pp. 9-24)</li> </ul>
Lecture 3	How to think (and make decisions) like a scientist (Part II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued, no additional readings</li> </ul>
Lecture 4	The Social Evolution of Human Beings (Part I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: Is the human species unique? Can Darwin’s theory of evolution be utilized to explain social evolution? How has Japanese society evolved over time?</li> <li>- Hunt and Colander (pp. 29-45)</li> <li>- Dawkins (1978). ‘The Selfish Gene’ (pp.1-12)</li> </ul>
Lecture 5	The Social Evolution of Human Beings (Part II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued, no additional readings</li> </ul>
Lecture 6	Geography and Ecology (Part I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: What are some of the developments that changed human beings from hunter-gatherers to those which live in complex towns, cities, and metropolises? What are some of conditions that enabled some societies to grow wealthy and powerful, while others stagnated (i.e. ‘why all the inequality in the world’)? Can geography be an explanation for why Japan was the first state to industrialize in East Asia?</li> <li>- Hunt and Colander (pp. 89-102)</li> </ul>
Lecture 7	Geography and Ecology (Part II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documentary: Guns, Germs, and Steel</li> </ul>
Lecture 8	The Complexity of Culture (Part I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: What is culture and how can we conceptualize and operationalize it (is that even possible)? Why is Japan considered a ‘high trust society’?</li> <li>- Bednar and Page (2007). ‘Can Game(s) Theory Explain Culture?’</li> <li>- Optional: “Ward, Mamerow, Meyer (2014). “Interpersonal Trust across Six Asia-Pacific Countries.”</li> </ul>
Lecture 9	The Complexity of Culture (Part II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued, no additional readings</li> </ul>
Lecture 10	Midterm I Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: midterm review group work</li> </ul>
Lecture 11	Midterm I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Midterm I</li> </ul>
Lecture 12	Post-Exam Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: Post-exam exercise</li> </ul>

Lecture 13	Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Multiculturalism (part I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: What factors shape real and perceived notions of race and ethnicity? What are some of the root causes of discrimination along racial, ethnic, or gender lines? Can discrimination be erased and positive change be realized? How multi-culturally diverse is Japan and what are some of the challenges emerging as a result of Japan's changing demographics?</li> <li>- Hunt and Colander (pp. 209-226)</li> <li>- Weiner (ed) (2005). Race, Ethnicity, and Migration in Modern Japan (pp. 1-11)</li> <li>- Page, Scott (pp. TBA)</li> </ul>
Lecture 14	Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Multiculturalism (Part II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued, no additional readings</li> </ul>
Lecture 15	Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Multi-culturalism (Part III)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued, no additional readings</li> </ul>
Lecture 16	Religion and Society (Part I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: What role (or roles) does religion play in society? To what extent is religion socially and politically salient in Japan?</li> <li>- Hunt and Colander (pp. 169-184)</li> <li>- Prohl and Nelson (2012). "Religious Contexts in Contemporary Japan" (pp. 3-22)</li> </ul>
Lecture 17	Religion and Society (Part II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued, no additional readings</li> </ul>
Lecture 18	Homo Economicus? Decisions under Scarcity (Part I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: Why is economics referred to by many as the 'dismal' science (hint: it has to do with food supply and population levels)? How has the world economic system evolved over time? How has Japan's economy evolved over time? Is Japan's economic decline a case of too much intervention, or not enough?</li> <li>- Hunt and Colander (pp. 322-336)</li> </ul>
Lecture 19	Homo Economicus? Decisions under Scarcity (Part II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued, no additional readings</li> </ul>
Lecture 20	Midterm II Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No additional readings</li> </ul>
Lecture 21	Midterm II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No additional readings</li> </ul>
Lecture 22	Post-Exam Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: Post-exam exercise</li> </ul>
Lecture 23	Collective Action Theory and the Study of Social Movements (Part I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: Why did states and governments emerge? What's the difference between the Japanese state, and the Japanese nation? Why did the Tokugawa regime give way to the Meiji Period?</li> <li>- Clark, Golder, and Golder (2014). Comparative Politics. (pp. 49-70)</li> <li>- Optional: Moore (1966). The Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy. (SKIM: pp. 228-291)</li> </ul>
Lecture 24	Collective Action Theory and the Study of Social Movements (Part II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued, no additional readings</li> </ul>

Lecture 25	On the persistence of violence in societies (Part I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: Why does violence persist in societies? Is democracy a solution? How does this play out in Japan?</li> <li>- Readings: TBA</li> </ul>
Lecture 26	On the persistence of violence in societies (Part II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continued, no additional readings</li> </ul>
Lecture 27	Peace or Conflict? Bargaining Models and Predicting War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: Why are wars empirically rare? Despite the rarity, why do they occur? Prime Minister Kishida has proposed increasing the budget for the Self-Defense Forces, as well as moving forward with constitutional change. What potential effect(s) might this have on Japan's future and potential outbreak of war?</li> <li>- Morrow (2013). Understanding World Politics (pp. 186-205)</li> <li>- McElwain and Winkler (2015). "What's Unique about the Japanese Constitution?" (pp. 249-280)</li> </ul>
Lecture 28	Final Exam Review/Course Wrap Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: Course wrap-up, final exam group work.</li> <li>- No additional readings</li> </ul>
Lecture 29	Final Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No additional readings</li> </ul>
Lecture 30	Final Exam Post-Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agenda: final exam post-exercise, group work.</li> </ul>

#### 【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

- Hunt, Elgin F. and David C. Colander. Social Science: An Introduction to the Study of Society, 17<sup>th</sup> edition.
- All other chapters/articles and materials will be uploaded to the course website

#### Section 4

##### 【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

- **Participation: 10%**
- **Midterm Exam I: 20%**
- **Midterm Exam II: 30%**
- **Final Exam: 40%**

#### Section 5

##### 【Additional Information】

Please allow for flexibility in the schedule, which may change as deemed necessary by progress or unforeseen events that may emerge.