The Japanese Legal System
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An introduction to the legal system of Japan. Among the general topics considered are the civil-law tradition and its Japanese reception, the sources of Japanese law, the constitutional framework and its implications for private law, and the role of law in the Japanese society. The course also examines the ongoing debate on constitutional revision, a debate that involves questions as to the appropriate role for Japan in international peacekeeping, as well as the need to expand or adjust the protection of fundamental rights and liberties to “suit the times.”

Although the course is not designed to provide detailed knowledge of procedural or substantive Japanese law, it will draw on cases and problems from constitutional law, torts, criminal law, family law, and employment law.