Civil Society and Disaster in Japan

Course Description:
Civil society groups have grown explosively in recent decades. Simultaneously, ideas of social capital have aroused widespread interest. This course examines a wide range of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), nonprofits, and voluntary groups under the unifying rubric of "civil society." After a theoretical introduction to this class of phenomenon, the course investigates civil society in Japan, its specific characteristic of Japanese civil society, and their causes and consequences. An important theme of this class is the relationship between disasters and civil society.

Course Requirements:
One Page Paper listing your relationship to 5 civil society groups 1%
First Exam 7%
Second Exam 20%
In-Class Debates 21%
Student Presentation on a Japanese civil society group 3%
Final Exam 32%
Class Participation 15%
Readings

SECTION ONE: THEORETICAL AND COMPARATIVE FRAMEWORK

Week 1
THEORIES OF CIVIL SOCIETY


Week 2
SOCIAL CAPITAL


Week 3
CIVIC (DIS)ENGAGEMENT IN THE USA


SECTION TWO: CIVIL SOCIETY IN JAPAN

Week 4
THE EMERGENCE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN ASIA: PREWAR JAPAN

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

Week 5
INTEREST GROUPS


SOCIAL MOVEMENTS


Week 6
THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN POSTWAR JAPAN


**THE MEDIA**


**Week 7**
**THE CHANGING CONTEXT**


**RELIGION IN JAPAN**


**Week 8**
**THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION: TRANSNATIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY**


**Week 9**
**DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY**


SECTION THREE: CIVIL SOCIETY AND DISASTERS

Week 10

