Course Description:
This course will focus on the Supreme Court of Japan. The first lessons will present the origin of the Supreme Court and the provisions on its structure and its functions. The second part will present the role it plays in the Japanese legal system, and an overview of the most important cases it decided. Depending on the participants’ interest and on the circumstances, one lesson might involve a field trip to the Supreme Court of Japan.

Textbooks:
There is no mandatory textbook. Reading materials will be provided by the instructor through the Class support system.

Reference Books:

Course Plan:
1 Introduction to the course
   Judicial review in Japan
2 Introduction to the course
   Judicial review in Japan
3 Provisions on the courts and on the Supreme Court
4 Provisions on the courts and on the Supreme Court
5 The judges of the Supreme Court
6 The judges of the Supreme Court
7 Administrative functions and judicial independence
8 Administrative functions and judicial independence
9 The role of precedents at the Supreme Court
10 The role of precedents at the Supreme Court
11 Case law or field trip
12 Case law or field trip
13 Case law or field trip
14 Case law or field trip
Other Makeup class

Lecturer’s Comments to Students:
All classes and all mandatory readings will be in English. Some optional readings may be in other languages.
A background in law is not a condition for attending the classes, but participants should have a basic knowledge of constitutional law and of modern Japanese history (please refer to the reference books).

Method of Evaluation:
Attendance and participation (50%), micro-exams (50%). Details about the evaluation standards will be explained in lesson 1.

Questions/Comments:
Students can contact the instructor at the end of the class or by email (details will be given during the class).