Japanese Postwar Foreign Policy

International University of Japan
Fall 2013
Schedule: Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon, 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
Instructor: Naoko Kumagai (nkumagai@iuj.ac.jp)

The course seeks to understand post-war Japanese foreign policy from diverse perspectives: international structures and systems, domestic politics, and individual leaders. The perspective of domestic politics encompasses both institutional mechanisms of bureaucracy and ideologies, such as nationalism and revisionism. The course will pay special attention to the issue of nationalism since it has recently stirred controversy inside and outside Japan over the cases of the Japanese Prime Minister’s Visit to the Yasukuni Shrine and comfort women. In order for deeper understanding of postwar Japanese foreign policy, the course also seeks to identify the fundamental some tenets of Japanese foreign policy by spending the first two sessions for Japanese foreign policy before and during the Second World War.

The course proceeds chronologically and thematically, starting with a brief explanation of basic theoretical frameworks. The course’s main thematic focuses are Japan’s bilateral security relationships with the United States and with her neighboring countries, particularly South Korea, North Korea, China, and Russia. The class will also discuss Japan’s multilateral diplomacy, mainly at the United Nations, and the triangular power struggle among Japan, the U.S., and China particularly in the context of the territorial dispute between Japan and China.

Each session of the course includes lecture and discussion. Students are strongly encouraged to introduce any related topics and cases into class discussion.

Course Requirements and Grading System
- Active class participation (attendance, class preparation, and class discussion): 20%
- In-class mid-term essay on October 30th (90 minutes): 30 %
- In-class presentation (20 minutes): 15%
- Final paper (4,500-5,000 words): 35%

Weekly Topics

Part 1. Introduction to Foreign Policy and Prewar Japan

Week 1 & 2
What is foreign policy?; Analytical frameworks of foreign policy; Pre-War Japan foreign policy


Recommended:
Part 2. Japan from the ashes of the Asia-Pacific War toward Independence and the Yoshida Doctrine

Week 3.
The Allied Occupation of Japan; the Peace Constitution
Chapter 13.

Recommended:

Week 4.
The San Francisco Peace Treaty and the Security Treaty between Japan and the U.S.
Territory (the Northern Irelands; Takeshima; Senkaku), the beginning of Japan’s economic recovery

Recommended

Part 3. The Yoshida Doctrine under the Cold War

Week 5. Mid-Term
Japan-U.S. Security Cooperation; the Normalization of Japan-Korea Relations; the Normalization of Japan-Soviet Relations
-Iriye, Chapter 10-11.

Week 6.
The Return of Okinawa; Okinawa and Japan; Diplomatic Normalization with China
Week 7.  
Growing Japanese Economy; Japan’s Economic Relations with the U.S.A. and East Asia; The 1973 Oil Crisis; Japan under the new Cold War


Part 4  Continuities and Changes in Japanese Foreign Policy

Week 8.  
The end of the Cold War and the Gulf War; Japan and the United Nations; the rise of China; North Korean Nuclear Crisis

-Akira Iriye, Chapter 13 and Conclusion.  

Week 9.  
Japan’s support for the U.S.-led War on Terror; the Consolidation of the U.S.-Japan Alliance  

Week 10. The Future of Japanese Foreign Policy toward the Asia-Pacific Region and toward the World  

Reading List