

PLS 360: Japan's Foreign Policy toward US

PLS 423: Japan-US Relations

2010 Spring Semester: Wednesday and Friday 12:30 – 13:45

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Course Goals

This course aims to train students to:

- (1) gain a better and clearer understanding of Japan-U.S. relations, focusing on foreign policy decision-making process in both nations
- (2) make research of many political, economic, social and cultural issues in the relation of the two countries
- (3) develop his/her critical thinking skills through comparative analysis
- (4) stimulate his/her imagination to revitalize the “historical ifs,” in order to shed new light on the events as if they were happening today.

Course Description

The course primarily intends to make analysis of Japan's foreign policy in the context of Japan-US history, and its focus is on the past half a century after the World War II. It expects students to examine the thoughts and behaviors of the key policy makers on both sides. It inevitably touches on the political climate, culture and system in both countries. Through the analysis of political leaders' psychological features and personalities, students are highly encouraged to deepen their views on politics and personality, and to develop their ideas over the role and identity of Japan in Asia and in the world in the 21st century.

Classroom Activities

The class is basically conducted in the students' presentation of the certain topics followed by discussion and analytical interpretation by the instructor. As the course is for 300 to 400 level advanced class, students are highly expected to participate in discussion. The class topics are for mainly case studies and each student will make two to three presentations on the assigned topics.

Prerequisite

Basic knowledge of history of Japan and U.S..

Evaluation

Class attendance and participation 40%

Participation includes frequent discussions and individual presentations. Each presentation will be about 5-10 minutes.

Essay on Senator Fulbright's biography 10%

The Fulbright's biography, "Against the Arrogance of Power: My Personal History," edited by Katsumata, (Hardcover edition with both Japanese and English, Nihon Keizai Shimbunsha, 1991, and paperback in Japanese with additional chapter and extensive introduction by Katsumata in 2002) offers a good summary of American foreign policy from the start of the World War II to the Gulf War in 1990s. AIU students, in particular, should know how the Fulbright's study abroad program was established with his personal experience and his expectations. The essay assignment is meant to encourage both Japanese and international students in AIU to develop his/her personal view on Fulbright's legacy and his influence over Japan-U.S. relations. The essay should be about 3 pages.

Midterm report 20%

Report should be on any topic discussed in the class with the length of 4 pages with notes to show citation from recommended books..

Final report 30%

Report should be on any topic discussed in the class during the second half of the semester with the length of 5 pages with notes.

Credits: 3

Course Materials

Walter Lafeber "The Clash --- U.S.-Japanese Relations throughout History,"
W.W.Norton & Company, 1997

This is a very well-researched and well-balanced work by an expert academician on US foreign policy toward Europe. There are many data and materials along with interesting episodes to make good analysis of the bilateral relations. Students are strongly recommended to read this and use its materials for their presentations.

There are many other materials such as some sections of books, magazine and newspaper articles, government documents available through internet and audio-visual materials, most of which are notified and/or offered during the classes.

The Japanese and world chronology and map book(s) are indispensable. The most recommendable one is: Kota Kodama ed., "Standard Chronology of Japanese History,"
Yoshikawa-Kobunkan, 2009 (児玉幸多編『標準日本史年表』吉川弘文館)

There is a list of recommendable books (About 40 books in Japanese and 20 in English) available at the library and Katsumata's office. Students are expected to read at least 4 or 5 books listed to write reports.

Class Schedule

1. (4/09) Introduction and orientation

Why does Japan think its U.S. relations so important?
Overview of Japan-US relations from 1850s to 2010
About recommendable books and materials

2. (4/14) Japan's self-image and its world view

What is "Japan" to Japanese people?
The Japanese image of the world; its psychological map
Placing US in Japan's 2000 year history

3. (4/16) Who are the foreign policy makers?

Diplomats or politicians?
Role of political parties and Zoku (tribe) giin
From LDP to DPJ

4. (4/21) Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)

Diplomatic experts? By-players in serious negotiations
Ambassadors: Representing the nation but powerless in domestic politics
Who proposes the diplomatic visions?

5. (4/23) "The Iron Triangle": power source of bureaucrats

Close relationships among bureaucrats-politicians-industrialists
"Amakudari"(Descent from heaven) as mediator
"Economy first, politics second": Economic policy over diplomacy

6. (4/28) Bureaucratic system since Edo period

Samurai class ethics transcend to career bureaucrats' pride and prejudice
"The Iron Triangle" to be deteriorated
Big wave of globalization and power-shift of administrations

7. (5/12) The first encounters with deep impact

Black-ships
Japan and US situations
From "Sakoku" (Closed door) to "Kaikoku" (Open door)

8. (5/14) Meiji restoration to modernization

Not a revolution?
New national mission: "Wealthy Nation, Strong Army"
Clash over Hawaii and two imperialisms

<< Essay on Fulbright biography due on 5/14 >>

9. **(5/19) Russo-Japanese War (1904-05)**
Aftermath of Japan-China War (1894-1895)
Honeymoon years between Japan and US
 10. **(5/21) Japan's Imperialism**
Expanding the territory: Manchuria
Japan's view of the world
 11. **(5/26) Conflicts between Japan and US**
Anti-Japanese immigration act in 1924
"Red menace" and "yellow peril": Media campaign
 12. **(5/28) The Great Depression and arms race: 1930s**
Crises in Wall Street and Manchuria
Japan's 15 year war in China
 13. **(6/2) The way to Pearl Harbor: 1941**
Surprise attack? --FDR
Beginning of total war: The role of Emperor
 14. **(6/4) The atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki:1945**
Pacific theater and relocation camps for Japanese Americans
Atomic bomb: necessary or not?
 15. **(6/9) Occupation Era: 1945~1951**
GHQ and Emperor
Creating new Japan
- << Mid-term paper by June 11 >>
16. **(6/11) Regaining independence: 1950s**
Cold War Era and Korean War
Seeking economic power and no military power
 17. **(6/16) Economic miracle: 1960s**
Japan-US Security Treaty revised
Tokyo Olympics and Vietnam War
 18. **(6/18) Okinawa return: 1970s**
Secret agreement between Sato and Nixon
Trade Wars

19. **(6/23) Toward “Equal partnership”: 1980s**
Nakasone and Reagan
Bubble economy: Japan’s buying into America
20. **(6/25) Japan’s “Lost Decade” : 1990~2000**
Burst of the bubble economy
The end of LDP dominating era
21. **(6/30) Japan-U.S. new alliance : 2001~2010**
Koizumi, Abe and Fukuda--Bush relationships
Hatoyama-Obama
22. **(7/2) Japan-China-US: The new tri-polar relations**
Love and hate relationships among 3 nations
3 nations’ strategy toward others
23. **(7/7) Korea issues**
South Korea: friend and foe
North Korea: Missile crisis and abduction cases
24. **(7/9)) Japan and United Nations**
Birth of U.N. based on the lessons from League of Nations
UN Security Council membership
25. **(7/14) Emerging new nationalism--- In Search of its Identity**
Perspectives on revision of peace constitution and security treaty
“Japan in Asia,” or “Japan vs. Asia”?
26. **(7/16) Role of mass media on Japan-US relations**
What is Japan’s public opinion?
Media’s political position --- Deterioration of public confidence in media
27. **(7.21) Conclusion: Is There Any Happy-Ending?**
Still unclear vision of Japan’s identity and its role in the world
Still unclear vision of US diplomatic strategy toward Asia

<< Final report by July 23 >>