

Course Title:
JAPANESE DIPLOMACY IN THE MEIJI ERA
Name of Lecturer:
Iikura, Akira Lecturer, International Center (Professor, Josai International University)
Sub Title:
Decision-making, historical memory and race
Course Description:
This course aims to examine Japanese diplomacy in the Meiji era from diverse angles and provide students with some new perspectives on the historical events in the period such as the triple intervention, the Anglo-Japanese alliance, and the Russo-Japanese War. Students will gain an understanding of Japanese diplomacy in the Meiji era and learn how to analyze historical events through decision-making, historical memory, and the concept of race.
Text Books:
No textbook will be used. Handouts will be given as reading assignments.
Reference Books:
Recommended readings will be suggested in the course of the lecture.
Course Plan per Week(Total 13 weeks):
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to the course and decision-makers in the Meiji era 2. The opening of Japan: Perry's visits and the British bombardments 3. The Meiji Restoration: The Emperor Meiji and Iwakura Tomomi 4. Border demarcation and the Korean question: Fukuzawa-sensei's 'On De-Asianization' 5. The Meiji Constitution and Ito Hirobumi 6. The road to the first Sino-Japanese war: Mutsu Munemitsu, Ito Hirobumi and the Emperor Meiji 7. The trauma of the Triple Intervention and the Yellow Peril idea 8. The Boxer Rebellion and the role of Japan 9. The Anglo-Japanese alliance and the question of race 10. Was the Russo-Japanese war inevitable?: Perception and mis-perception of Japanese decision-makers before the war 11. The Russo-Japanese war as an icon in historical memory: narratives and movies 12. The changing views of Japan during the Russo-Japanese war 13. Excursion to a historical site and/or a museum(on Saturday)
Message to those taking this Course:
The lecturer will put special emphasis on the Russo-Japanese war of 1904–05 by showing some new scholarly works, popular history and commemorative articles on the war that appear mainly during the years 2004 and 2005, the hundredth anniversary of the war. The lecturer will illustrate the lecture by using slides and videotapes.
Grading Methods:
A short term paper on one of designated questions and a final essay will be assigned. Attendance and class participation will be particularly important.