Mon Jan 19 2026 11:27:34 GMT+0900 (日本標準時)

Keio University Syllabus and Timetable

JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY

Subtitle	Issues and challenges in post-World War II Japan's international relations
Lecturer(s)	NOBORI, AMIKO
Credit(s)	2
Academic Year/Semester	2026 Fall
Day/Period	Thu.2
Campus	Mita
Classroom	456
Class Format	Face-to-face classes (conducted mainly in-person)
Registration Number	13756
Faculty/Graduate School	INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Year Level	2, 3, 4
Grade Type	S, A, B, C, D
Course Description	A course to aim to learn an introductory post-World War II Japanese history, with focus on foreign policy and discussion of domestic factors affecting it.
K-Number	CIN-CO-00233-212-06

▼ Detail

Course Contents/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome

1.　　Course Description :
This course is an introduction to post-World War II Japanese history, with focus on foreign policy and discussion of domestic factors affecting it. Classes examine Japan's relations with Asia and the United States as well as issues such as the debate over the revision of Japan's constitution, Japan's security, the "history problem", Japan's official development assistance and Japan's Soft Power strategy.
Classes are a combination of lectures, videos, presentations by students, and discussions.

2. Assignments
2-1. Weekly comments
The reading materials for this course are available in the Canvas LMS system. Students are required to write one short comment (150 words) on the reading material assigned for that week. The comment must be uploaded in the "Weekly comments" field of each class's folder by 11:00 am on the day before class. The comment must not be a summary of the reading material; for example, it can be a critical assessment of the author's argument, or a reaction to some specific part/s of the material, or a comparison with the case of your/other countries, etc. More information on how to write the comments will be provided during the first class.

2-2. Debate
Students will be divided into several groups for the debate to be held on Week 14. On Week 9, each group will be assigned time for selecting a topic related to Japan's postwar foreign policy to be discussed during the debate.

3. Term paper
There is no final exam. Students are required to submit a term paper (1,500 words including footnotes) on any of the topics related to post-World War II Japanese foreign policy. The paper should be sent to the lecturers by uploading it in the Canvas LMS.

Course Taught by Faculty Member with Professional Experience

Not applicable

Active Learning Methods ⓘ Description

Discussions, Debates
Group work

Preparatory Study

Reading the assigned materials and writing a short comment.

Course Plan

Lesson 1

Orientation

Lesson 2

Defeat in World War II, occupation of Japan and legacy (Occupation reforms, "Peace Constitution," Tokyo Trials)

Lesson 3

Independence and birth of the Japan-U.S. alliance ("Reverse course," San Francisco Peace Treaty, Japan-U.S. Security Treaty)

Lesson 4

Japan's "return" to Asia (reparations to Southeast Asia, issues in Northeast Asia)

Lesson 5

Issues in Japan's foreign policy in the 1950s-1960s (Three principles of Japan's foreign policy, revision of Japan-US Security Treaty)

Lesson 6

Japanese relations with the U.S. and Asia in the 1970s ("Nixon shocks," normalization with China, Japan's Southeast Asia policy)

Lesson 7

Japan-U.S. relations and the Nakasone administration's diplomacy in the 1980s (Deepening security ties and trade frictions in Japan-U.S. relations, Japan's Official Development Assistance)

Lesson 8

New Challenges in the Post-Cold War Period and Re-examining Japan's International Role
(The Gulf War as a turning point: debate on Japan's participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations. End of the "1955 system" and Japan's foreign policy)

Lesson 9

Japan-US Relations After the Cold War (Redefinition of the Japan-US alliance. Japan's response to 9/11)

Lesson 10

The "History Problem" and Reconciliation in Northeast Asia
(Facts and issues about the "history problem." "comfort women" issue. Yasukuni shrine controversy. Implications for Japan's international relations)

Lesson 11

Japan's Soft power strategy

Lesson 12

Societal issues that affect Japan's international relations (an aging society and depopulation, immigration and refugee problem, gender issues, human rights etc.)

Lesson 13

Field Trip: A visit to the Showakan Museum or another relevant site may be planned. Details, including the date and location, are subject to change and will be confirmed later in the semester.

Lesson 14

Debate

Other

Preparation for a term paper

Method of Evaluation

- Participation in class (weekly commentaries and participation in class discussion): 50%
- Term paper: 50%

Generative AI Policy for Classes

In this course, generative AI may be used only in limited ways:
For brainstorming and planning
For drafting assignment structures
As a research aid (you must verify accuracy)

Important notes:
Always state if AI was used (e.g., "Structure drafted using Gemini").
Copying AI text without attribution or using unchecked sources may count as misconduct.
Actual writing of assignments and reports must be done independently; AI use is not allowed.

Textbooks

Reading materials will be uploaded by the instructors in the Canvas LMS.

Reference Books

Makoto Iokibe ed., The Diplomatic History of Postwar Japan (London and New York: Routledge, 2009).

Lecturer's Comments to Students

This course is designed for those who are interested in Japan, Asia, history issues, international relations, and security affairs. No background knowledge on these issues is required. The course will be conducted in English. Students with limited English ability are also welcome. Students are expected to participate in class discussions. More than two unexcused absences will lower a student's grade. The maximum number of students who can

register for this course is 40. If more than 40 students register for this course, a selection will be made through an automatic drawing system.

Question/Comments

Students can contact the lecturer at: amiko@keio.jp