

**Japan's Security Policies**  
Spring 2019  
Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies  
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**OBJECTIVES**

This course will introduce Japan's recent security policies and foreign policies. It begins with an overview of Japan's postwar history, including its cultural, social, political, legal, and economic structure. We then learn about the security situation in the Asia-Pacific region, the U.S.-Japan security alliance, and Japan's recent security policies, including the 2015 security legislation debate and the policy debate on amending the constitution.

Today, no nation can maintain its own peace and security alone. This is particularly so for Japan, which officially has no military according to Article 9 of its Constitution. Its Self-Defense Forces for national territory defense may be deployed abroad only for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, or peace activities including UN peacekeeping missions.

In the security environment surrounding Japan, which is becoming increasingly severe, it has become indispensable to strengthen the Japan-U.S. Security Arrangements and to enhance the deterrence of the Japan-U.S. Alliance not only for the security of Japan, but also to maintain the peace and stability of the Asia Pacific region. The two countries are expanding and strengthening cooperation in many areas, including ballistic missile defense, cyberspace and outer space.

Japan's Government under Prime Minister Abe has been making significant changes on its security policy which include the establishment of the National Security Council, the adoption of the National Security Strategy, and the National Defense Program Guidelines. The direction for new security legislation to ensure Japan's survival was adopted by a Cabinet Decision in July 2014, and in 2015 the government submitted a bill to the Diet. After more than 200 hours of intensive discussions, the legislation was approved by the Diet on September 19, 2015.

Students will read studies and research accumulated in the field of foreign policy and security studies—a sub-discipline of International Relations (IR)—to examine how these recent security policies have been created. They will also discuss the uniqueness of the Self Defense Forces (SDF) and their relations to Japanese society from a sociological perspective. The course objectives are: 1) to enable students to develop a broader understanding of the key theories and concepts in foreign policies and security studies; 2) to examine major security challenges facing Japan and Asia-Pacific region through the lens of theories and concepts; 3) to discuss SDF-society interactions which are unique to Japan.

**CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION**

Part One concentrates on terminology and analytical approaches around which the course is organized. Major theories and concepts in security studies, necessary for understanding contemporary security policies and issues, will be provided.

Part Two introduces Japan's post-war security policies including the US-Japan Alliance and creation of the Self Defense Forces.

Part Three analyzes the security environment in the Asia-Pacific region after 2001. Students will read recent articles and policy documents such as White Papers.

Part Four concentrates on Japan's new security legislation and Article 9 of the Constitution.

Part Five focuses on expanded regulations of the Self Defense Forces in foreign countries, which was added by the security legislation. The class will review the legal framework and public perceptions to identify Japan's significance and challenges.

The course instructor plans to invite guest speakers including representatives from the Ministry of Defense or Self-Defense Forces. As the instructor is a native Japanese speaker, she will encourage students to read and hear about topics such as political events and current affairs in Japan.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

No prior knowledge of the field is required.

Graded assignments include active oral class participation, a mid-term presentation, and a final paper and presentation.

## **Sample Required Readings**

- Curran, David and Paul D. Williams *The UK and UN Peace Operations: A Case for Greater Engagement*, Oxford Research Group, 2016.
- Nye, Joseph
- Drohen, Thomas, *American-Japanese Security Agreements, Past and Present*, McFarland & Company, 2007.
- Eldridge, Robert, *The Japanese Ground Self-Defence Forces: Search for Legitimacy*, Palgrave, 2017.
- Samuels, Richard J., Richard J. Samuels, *Securing Japan: Tokyo's Grand Strategy and the Future of East Asia*, Cornell University Press, 2007.
- Samuels, Richard J., *3.11 Disaster and Change in Japan*, Cornell University Press, 2013.
- Calder, Kent E. *Pacific Alliance: Reviving US-Japan Relations*, Yale University Press, 2009.
- Inoguchi, Takashi "Conclusion: A Peace-and-Security Taxonomy" in Inoguchi, ed., *North-East Asian Regional Security*, 1997. pp.181-206.
- Deudney, Daniel. and G. John Ikenberry, "The Nature and Sources of Liberal International Order," *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 25. 1999. pp.179-196.
- Okazaki, Hisahiko., *A Grand Strategy for Japanese Defense*, University Press of America, 1986.
- Kummel, Gerhard and Nina Leonhard "Casualties and Civil-Military Relations: The German Polity between Learning and Indifference" *Armed Forces & Society*, Jul 2005 ; vol. 31.