This subject is designed for graduate students interested in international politics, national security and comparative political economy. It examines the political, military, and economic challenges facing Japan, its neighbors, and the international system under conditions of great uncertainty. Topics range from the history of once "new" world orders to theories that inform our understanding of international affairs and foreign policy decision-making, as each is related to Japan. We focus on Japanese bilateral, regional, and global security policies from a range of theoretical perspectives. The semester will culminate in a weekend-long Asia-Pacific Crisis Simulation game (21-23 May) in which invited U.S. and foreign experts will participate with the graduate students.

There are four assignments:

- A précis (2 pages) of at least one of the major books on the syllabus for circulation to the seminar [Eligible books are marked by $<$P$>$ on the syllabus.]
- A short (10 page) scenario paper, due in class on 29 March.
- A longer (up to 25 page) briefing paper on a topic from the list at the end of this syllabus.
- An oral presentation.

Seminar participation will be a large part of the student evaluation.
RECOMMENDED FOR PURCHASE
(most are paperbacks):


Required readings are available at the Reserve Desk of Dewey Library and in “Course Notes” available for purchase at MIT Graphic Arts (E52-045). Most suggested readings are also on Reserve at Dewey; those that are elsewhere (at Dewey) are noted accordingly.
SEMESTER OUTLINE
17.486
SPRING 2004

I. Historical and Theoretical Background

9 February  Japan and the Old World Orders
17 February (Tuesday) Japan and Old New World Orders
23 February Conceiving Security, Grand Strategy, and Technology

II. Inside the Japanese System

1 March Domestic Politics and Ideas about Japanese Security
8 March Japan's Foreign Economic Policy
15 March Japan's Security Policy
22 March HOLIDAY (Spring Break)

III. Japan and the World System

29 March The US Alliance: A Bilateral View
5 April China, Korea, and Southeast Asia: The Regional View
12 April Japan’s Global Role
19 April HOLIDAY (Patriot's Day)

IV. Analysis and Prognostication

26 April Briefings/Scenarios (Bilateral)
3 May Briefings/Scenarios (Regional)
10 May Briefings/Scenarios (Global)
I. HISTORICAL AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

9 February JAPAN AND THE OLD WORLD ORDERS


Readings:


Suggested:


Can we derive lessons from the creation of previous world orders? Does IR theory help? How do they each apply to Japanese history?

**Readings:**


**Suggested:**


<>
23 February  

GRAND STRATEGY BEYOND MILITARY SECURITY

How are doctrine, technology and national security linked? What is the origin of national security strategy? What is the strategic relationship of the military and civilian economies?

Readings:


Suggested:


II. INSIDE THE JAPANESE SYSTEM

1 March DOMESTIC POLITICS AND JAPANESE SECURITY

Historical review of the domestic institutions of defense policymaking and diplomacy. To what extent do values, norms, and ideas drive strategic choices in Japan? And where do they come from? Do they shape institutions or are they shaped by them?

Readings:


Suggested:


Kamiya, Matake. “Nuclear Japan: Oxymoron or Coming Soon?” The Washington Quarterly. Winter 2002-3, pp. 63-75. (online via Barton and in Dewey journals collection)

8 March CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS IN JAPAN

How have bureaucrats and politicians interacted and how have they maintained control of the Japanese military?

Readings:


Suggested:


What are the instruments and institutions of Japanese foreign economic policy? How are trade and aid linked to security and grand strategy?

Readings:


Suggested:


Kozo Yamamura and Walter Hatch, “A Looming Entry Barrier: Japan’s Production Networks in Asia,” NBR Analysis. Volume 8, No. 1, February 1997 (in reserve binder)
29 March  THE US ALLIANCE: THE BILATERAL VIEW
(first paper due in class)

How do U.S.-Japan bilateral relations shape Japan’s strategic choices? How do Japan and the United States balance political, military, economic, and technological interests without one another?

Readings:


Skim:


Suggested:


5 April THE REGIONAL VIEW

From the Guam to the Fukuda Doctrines and beyond. Japanese relations with its neighbors. Collective security and confidence building in Northeast, East and Southeast Asia. The rise of China, the Northern Territories, Korean Unification, the DPRK.

Readings:


Suggested:


12 April THE GLOBAL VIEW

Japan and the United Nations, ODA. Japan's Debates over the Gulf War, the UN Peacekeeping Bill, the Global Anti-Terrorism Campaign, and Iraq. Resource Diplomacy.

Readings:


**Suggested:**
Advisory Group on Defense Issues, ed. “The Modality of the Security and Defense Capability of Japan: The Outlook for the 21st century,” Tokyo, August 1994 (Note: This group was appointed by former Prime Minister Hosokawa to review Japan’s strategic posture after the Cold War. Its report was completed after Prime Minister Hosokawa left office.) (in reserve binder)


IV. BRIEFINGS AND SCENARIOS

26 April BILATERAL TOPICS:
♦ The US-Japan Alliance
♦ US-Japan Technology Transfer
♦ Bilateral Trade and Investment

3 May REGIONAL TOPICS
♦ Yen Bloc
♦ Japanese Military Build-up
♦ Japan and the Korean Peninsula
♦ Sino-Japanese Relations
♦ Russo-Japanese Relations
♦ Japan-ASEAN Relations

10 May GLOBAL TOPICS
♦ Japan and Terrorism
♦ Japan and the United Nations
♦ Japan and NGO’s (World Bank, WTO, IMF, OECD, etc.)
♦ Global Treaties

Each student will prepare his/her own briefing on a single topic, selected from the list above. Each briefing will be organized according to the following outline:

I. Historical Background

II. Analytics
   a. Domestic politics
   b. International system
   c. International sources of domestic politics

III. Link analysis to two or more of the following Japanese postures:
   a. Collective security in Northeast Asia
   b. Status quo (Japan as junior partner)
   c. Japan as an independent regional power
   d. Muscular Japan: A global power that can say "no"

These briefings will require significant research and synthesis, but should be no more than 25 double-spaced pages in length. Each student will brief the class for 20 minutes. The papers are due in class the day of the presentation.
FIRST PAPER ASSIGNMENT

( DUE IN CLASS 29 March )

Imagine that you are a historian writing in the year 2024 explaining how the world/region arrived at one of the following outcomes:

1. A Northeast Asia Collective Security Regime
3. Japan as Independent Regional Power
4. Japan as Independent Global Power

Be sure to assess the international, domestic political, national security, economic, and technological developments of the previous two decades (1999-2019) in developing your analysis. Refer to the class readings-- both narrative and theoretical-- and to relevant baseline data you collect, and argue plausibly how this outcome was obtained.

These papers should not exceed 10 pages in length.

OTHER PAPER ASSIGNMENT: BOOK PRÉCIS

A précis is not a critique or review of a longer work. Instead, a précis is a very concise summary of that longer piece of work. It is an abridged statement of the argument and evidence provided by the author. It is difficult to write because you must distill the essence of a longer (and often very complex argument) without injecting your own judgment about the strengths and weaknesses of the original.

We will assign the books for each student collectively. Please be sure to make copies for the instructor and for each member of the seminar. With the exception of those marked <P> for the first week, all précis are due on the day the reading is assigned or suggested.