



Online Professional Development Course for Educators

Japan Society x Japan America Society of Houston Collaboration

Geopolitical Japan: Security, Society and Economy

Saturday, September 30, 2023

Course Description

Online Sessions -Topics and Agenda:

(1) Geopolitics of Japan : post war to contemporary

The lecture will examine Japan's unique geopolitical situation, a part of a larger continent but apart, geographically isolated, and dependent on a much more powerful ally overseas. In the video and live lectures, participants will receive a broad overview of US-Japan relations from 1945-present that will provide a foundation for the rest of the course. Day one will focus primarily on Japanese international relations in relation to military security, international power politics, and alliances. Through contextualizing the major developments of US-Japan relations within the broader context of global history during this era, the content will be directly relevant to both the Global History and US History standards of New York. Through focusing on how major developments in recent world history and international relations appeared from a Japanese perspective, participants will question standard interpretations of certain vital developments from this era. Key topics include military relations, the impact of the Cold War, Korean War, and Vietnam War on US-Japan relations, but also the current changes in the US-Japan relations and foreign policy, especially focusing current security concerns that Japan faces: rising China, and threats of North Korea and Russia. The impact of the changing US-China and US-Russia relationships on Japan and Asia Pacific will be analyzed while Japan's view of regional and multilateral global alliances will be discussed. For example, participants will examine some specific cases like Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) among the US, Japan, Australia and India: how the international alliance leads to the stability of East Asia, and how each country sees benefits in the partnership. As a part of the discussion, participants will consider the extent to which their own views of US-Japan relations and global history reflect an American centered perspective, without consideration of Japanese perspectives.

Instructor: **TBA**

(2) Japan in the Global Supply chain and Economic Security

The recent Covid 19 pandemic and changes in the US-China relations have led to a growing alarm in Japan to address the vulnerabilities in the global supply chains critical to national security and economic competitiveness. While Japan maintains its economy as the 3rd largest even during its long economic downturn, Japan (and also the US) are highly dependent on peer competitors, especially China, for strategic materials. Japan's dependence on a single source faces the risk to supply chain security amid looming great power competition. The recent development of sanctions against Russia related to the invasion of Ukraine has further highlighted Japan's longstanding dependence on foreign power supplies, and the close relationship between Japanese energy policy and its role in the world. Through a combination of lecture, readings, and discussion, participants will explore the recent developments in the US-Japan supply chain policy, and the

importance of closer coordination between the US and Japan, as well as the need of multilateral cooperation to ensure their supply chain resiliency and global economic development. They will also analyze the impact of energy policy on Japanese security and foreign relations. Participants will examine some case studies of specific items such as Japan's relationship to OPEC and Russia as suppliers of oil, and the role of semiconductors, which Japan has a large global market share, and how their production relates to both a global supply chain and Japanese international relations. The session also introduces multilateral economic/trade cooperation on the global and regional level such as Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and how such international alliances impact on the economy of Japan, East Asia, the US, and the larger area of the world.

Instructors: Mr. David Steven Jacoby, Adjunct Professor of Operations Management at New York University's Tandon School of Engineering, a Senior Fellow at Boston University's Institute for Sustainable Energy.