



# J. F. Oberlin University

## ACADEMIC COURSE SYLLABUS

### **COURSE NAME:**

**International Relations**

### **MEETING TIMES:**

45 Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday (days may vary based on activity schedule)

Periods: 1 – 4 (periods and times may vary based on activity schedule)

### **DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of International Relations with special reference to the countries of the Asia-Pacific, and particularly to Japan. This course provides a broad introduction to contemporary Japan's domestic politics and its international relations. The first part of the course examines the political history of modern Japan as well as the effects of American occupation in the years after the war. The next part focuses on a number of policy issues relating to Japan's foreign and defense policy, including continuity and change in its security practice, the evolution of the US-Japan alliance, Japan's tense relations with its neighbors, and the legacy of the Empire. The classes culminate in a discussion on the nature of Japan's domestic and international outlook. Students are expected to participate in critical discussions regarding what role Japan should play in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The course meets for a minimum of 45 hours per two-week period. Students receive 4 Oberlin University credits and a Certificate of Completion for passing with a minimum grade of a D.

### **COURSE LEVELS:**

Classes are taught and conducted in English. No Japanese language level is required.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES/ OUTCOMES:**

1. To develop student's understanding of the environment of the government of Japan from historical, cultural, and political perspective.
2. To apply and develop the skills and knowledge of political theory and method through analysis of policy issues.
3. To provide students with the background that will enable them to include reference to Japan in their research.

### **METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:**

Lecture, participatory (dialogical, reciprocal learning), inquiry (research & inquiry, cooperative group, engaging by generating questions), critical thinking and constructive thinking (analyzing and examining media, multiple alternative culture), creative future thinking (action agenda, root cause, exchange ideas).

### **TEXTBOOK(S) AND/OR CLASS MATERIALS:**

The instructor will provide class materials.

### **GRADING, CERTIFICATE, GRADING PLAN & EVALUATION:**

All students will get a grade for this academic course. You will also get a Certificate of Completion at the end of the course. Students who do not pass with a letter grade of D or above will not be awarded a Certificate of Completion.

Grading Scale:

90-100 = A    80-89 = B    79-70 = C    60-69 = D    50 and below = F

Breakdown:

- Class Participation: 25%
- Attendance: 25%
- Assignments: 20%
- Final Project: 30%

### **COURSE POLICIES:**

It is required for students to attend all classes and come to class on time. Students should refrain from using cell phones while in class and eating during class times.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT:**

Students are expected to conduct themselves well in the class. Disciplinary action may be taken for but not limited to dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism.

# **COURSE CONTENTS**

## **Week 1**

### Lesson 1

Course Orientation

### Lesson 2

Introduction to International Relations

Foundations of International Relations

States and interests in International Relations

### Lesson 3 (possible Field Trip (TBA))

Japan's Diplomatic Policy

- Historical Development of Japanese Foreign Policy

### Lesson 4

Japan's Diplomatic Policy

- Constraints of Japanese Foreign Policy
  - Domestic

### Lesson 5

Japan's Diplomatic Policy

- Constraints of Japanese Foreign Policy
  - International

Relations between Japan and the Great Powers Past and Present:

- China
- United States

## **Week 2**

### Lesson 6

Relations between Japan and the Great Powers Past and Present:

- Korea
- Australia
- Russia
- ASEAN
- EU

### Lesson 7

Experiences in Development of Japan

- Japan's political development
- Japan's migration policy

### Lesson 8 (possible Field Trip (TBA))

Experiences in Development of Japan

- Japan's disaster management and environment policies
- Japan's ICT policy and development

### Lesson 9

Japan's Role

- ODA
- Security role
- Japan and Maritime Security
- Japan and the United Nations
- Japan and International Organizations (World Bank, United Nations, WTO, IMF, OECD, etc.)

Class Presentation

### Lesson 10

Class Presentation

Japan's outlook

- Domestic
- International