

Seminar on Korea-Japan Relations
Spring 2024
GSIS International Area Studies (Japan)

Instructor: Sukeui SOHN
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Time & Venue: TBA
Office Hour: By appointment

Course Description & Objectives

This course is designed to survey theories, history, and contending issues related to Korea-Japan relations. We deal with contemporary Korea-Japan relations after 1945, reviewing perspectives surrounding bilateral ties between the two countries. The topics we cover range from historical development of the bilateral relations, and how internal/external structure as well as normative factors such as perceptions and national identities shape and alter the relationship between the two countries. Each class session consists of short lecture, summary presentations, and discussion.

Requirements & Evaluation

Attendance & participation	10%
Presentation & discussion	20%
Midterm	30%
Final research paper	40%

Attendance & Participation

All students are required to attend class and participate in lively discussions. Missing more than one-third of the classes will result in immediate “F” for this course.

Presentation & Discussion

For every session, students are requested to make individual, resume-based presentations concerning the contexts of the reading materials, based on which the class will carry out discussions.

Midterm Exam

Midterm exam will be scheduled mid-semester. The instructor will provide with more details during class.

Final Research Paper

All students are required to turn in a final research paper at the end of the semester (10 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman font). You may choose any topic discussed during the semester. This paper should be “critical” and “analytical” research paper with strong supporting evidence and **proper academic citations**. Plagiarism will result in immediate zero point for this assignment.

Overall Course Schedule

	Topic	Note
Week 1	Course Introduction	
Week 2	From Liberalization to Normalization	
Week 3	Cold War and the ROK-Japan relations	
Week 4	Post-Cold War and the Structural Shift in the ROK-Japan relations	
Week 5	Domestic Perception: Japan's View on South Korea	
Week 6	Domestic Perception: South Korea's View on Japan	
Week 7	Dealing with Rising China	
Week 8	Midterm Exam	
Week 9	Identity and Interstate Relations	
Week 10	Conflicts over History 1: 'Comfort Women' and the Textbook	
Week 11	Conflicts over History 2: Dokdo Controversy	
Week 12	Korea-Japan Relations during the Abe Administration	
Week 13	Korea-Japan Relations in the ERA of US-China Rivalry	
Week 14	Student Presentation on Individual Research Paper	
Week 15	Final Research Paper Due (12 pm)	Online submission

Course Schedule and Weekly Reading Assignments

(*The complete list of reading assignments will be distributed at the first class session*)

Week 1 Course Introduction

Week 2 From Liberalization to Normalization

Oda, Shigeru. "The Normalization of Relations Between Japan and the Republic of Korea." *The American Journal of International Law*, vol. 61, no. 1, 1967, pp. 35–56

Cha, Victor D. "Bridging the Gap: The Strategic Context of the 1965 Korea—Japan Normalization Treaty." *Korean Studies*, vol. 20, no. 1, 1996, pp. 123–60.

Yoon, Tae-Ryong. "LEARNING TO COOPERATE NOT TO COOPERATE: BARGAINING FOR THE 1965 KOREA-JAPAN NORMALIZATION." *Asian Perspective* 32.2 (2008): 59-91.

Choi, C. (1993). *The Discourse of Decolonization and Popular Memory: South Korea*. *Positions: Asia Critique*, 1(1), 77-102.

Week 3 Cold War and the ROK-Japan relations

Victor D. Cha, *Abandonment, Entrapment, and Neoclassical Realism in Asia: The United States, Japan, and Korea*, *International Studies Quarterly*, Volume 44, Issue 2, June 2000, Pages 261–291

Chen, Boyu. "Decolonizing Japan–South Korea Relations: Hegemony, the Cold War, and the Subaltern State." *Asian Perspective* 44, no. 2 (2020): 233-253.

Chung, Jin Sung, "Japan's Special Procurement in the 1950s and the Cold War Structure," *Seoul Journal of Japanese Studies* Vol.6 No.1 (2020): 1-41

Week 4 Post-Cold War and the Structural Shift in the ROK-Japan relations

Mansosevitz, Jason U. 2003. "Japan and South Korea: Security Relations Reach Adolescence." *Asian Survey* 43 (5) (Sep): 801-825.

Yoon, Suk Jung (2021) "Structural Change in Korea-Japan Relations during the 1990s and the Korea-Japan Joint Declaration: An examination of the transnational attempts at cooperation and institutionalization in the Post-Cold War era," *Seoul Journal of Japanese Studies* vol.7 no.1: 119-38.

Cheol Hee Park, "Cooperation Coupled with Conflicts: Korea-Japan Relations in the Post-Cold War Era," *Asia-Pacific Review* 15:2 (November 2008): 13-35.

Week 5 Domestic Perception: Japan's View on South Korea

Nishino Junya (2020) *Strategic Japan-South Korea Cooperation: Prime Minister Nakasone Yasuhiro and Korean Peninsula Diplomacy*, *Asia-Pacific Review*, 27:1, 113-132,

Park, Cheol Hee (2007) "Japanese Strategic Thinking toward Korea" in Gilbert Rozman ed. Japanese Strategic Thought toward Asia. Palgrave.

Suzuki, Shogo (2019) Japanese revisionists and the 'Korea threat': insights from ontological security, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, 32:3, 303-321

Week 6 Domestic Perception: South Korea's View on Japan

You, Chaekwang and Wonjae Kim. 2020. "LOSS AVERSION AND RISK-SEEKING IN KOREA–JAPAN RELATIONS." *Journal of East Asian Studies* 20 (1) (03): 53-74.

Karina V. Korostelina (2019) The normative function of national historical narratives: South Korean perceptions of relations with Japan, *National Identities*, 21:2, 171-189

You, Chaekwang and Wonjae Kim. 2016. "Explaining a Roller Coaster Change in ROK's Policy Toward Japan: Morality/Threat Perception Nexus and the Kim Young-Sam Government's Japan Policy." *Korea Observer* 47 (2): 417-459.

Week 7 Dealing with Rising China

Van Jackson, Buffers, Not Bridges: Rethinking Multilateralism and the Resilience of Japan-South Korea Friction, *International Studies Review*, Volume 20, Issue 1, March 2018, Pages 127–151

WONG, AUDRYE Y. "Comparing Japanese and South Korean Strategies toward China and the United States: All Politics Is Local." *Asian Survey* 55, no. 6 (2015): 1241–69.

SON, KEY-YOUNG. 2014. "Middle Powers and the Rise of China: 'Identity Norms' of Dependency and Activism and the Outlook for Japan-South Korea Relations Vis-à-Vis the Great Powers." *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 15 (1): 91-112.

Suh, Seung-Won and Nam-eun Kim. "Facing China Differently and Equally: A Comparison between South Korean and Japanese Policy Behaviors." *Contemporary Chinese Political Economy and Strategic Relations* 6, no. 2 (Aug, 2020): 419-468

Week 8 Midterm Essay Due (12 pm)

Week 9 Identity and Interstate Relations

Thomas Berger, "Power and Purpose in Pacific East Asia: A Constructivist Interpretation," in G. John Ikenberry and Michael Mastanduno, eds. *International Relations Theory and the Asia-Pacific* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003): 387-420.

Tamaki, Taku. 2020. "It Takes Two to Tango: The Difficult Japan–South Korea Relations as Clash of Realities." *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 21 (1): 1-18.

Deacon, C. (2023). Perpetual ontological crisis: national division, enduring anxieties and South Korea's discursive relationship with Japan. *European Journal of International*

Relations, 29(4), 1041-1065.

Kim, Ji Young, "Rethinking the role of identity factors: the history problem and the Japan–South Korea security relationship in the post-Cold War period," *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, Volume 15, Issue 3, September 2015, Pages 477–503

Week 10 Conflicts over History 1: 'Comfort Women' and the Textbook

Ienaga, Saburo. "The Glorification of War in Japanese Education." *International Security* 18, no. 3 (1993): 113–33.

Hayashi, Hirofumi. "Disputes in Japan over the Japanese Military 'Comfort Women' System and Its Perception in History." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 617 (2008): 123–32.

Tomomi YAMAGUCHI, Revisionism, Ultrationalism, Sexism: Relations Between the Far Right and the Establishment Over the 'Comfort Women' Issue, *Social Science Japan Journal*, Volume 21, Issue 2, Summer 2018, Pages 193–212

Week 11 Conflicts over History 2: Dokdo Controversy

Seokwoo Lee, Jon M. Van Dyke, The 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty and Its Relevance to the Sovereignty over Dokdo, *Chinese Journal of International Law*, Volume 9, Issue 4, December 2010, Pages 741–762

Hyun, Dae-song, "The Dokdo-Takeshima Issue: Its Origin and the Current Situation," in Hyun Dae-song. ed. *The Historical Perceptions of Korea and Japan* (Seoul: Nanam, 2008): 37-92.

Hori Kazuo, "Japan's Incorporation of Takeshima into Its Territory in 1905," in Hyun Dae-song. ed. *The Historical Perceptions of Korea and Japan* (Seoul: Nanam, 2008): 93-138.

Alexander Bukh (2015) Shimane Prefecture, Tokyo and the territorial dispute over Dokdo/Takeshima: regional and national identities in Japan, *The Pacific Review*, 28:1, 47-70

Week 12 Korea-Japan Relations during the Abe Administration

Chris Deacon (2022) (Re)producing the 'history problem': memory, identity and the Japan-South Korea trade dispute, *The Pacific Review*, 35:5, 789-820,

Phillips, Joe, Wondong Lee, and Joseph Yi. 2020. "Future of South Korea–Japan Relations: Decoupling or Liberal Discourse." *Political Quarterly* 91 (2): 448–56.

Ji Young Kim, Wenxin Li, Seunghee Lee; Making Sense of Japan's Export Restrictions against South Korea: Domestic Symbolism, Empowered Premiership, and Anti-Korean Sentiment. *Asian Survey* 1 August 2021; 61 (4): 683–710.

Week 13 Korea-Japan Relations in the ERA of US-China Rivalry

Sakaki, A. and Nishino, J. (2018) "Japan's South Korea predicament," *International Affairs* 94(4), pp. 735–754.

Choi, Heesik (2023) Korea-Japan Relations during the Period of US-China Strategic Competition: Polarized Politics and South Korea's Policy toward Japan. *Seoul Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol.9, No.1: 83-122.

Leif-Eric Easley (2023) Stabilizing Japan–Korea relations: Restraining nationalism, appraising Beijing, reassuring Washington, *The Pacific Review*, 36:6, 1273-1305.

Week 14 Student Presentations

Week 15 Final Paper Due