

Graduate School of Public Policy
The University of Tokyo

Asia's Geoeconomic Landscapes I

5123263-1
2024S1S2

Course Syllabus

Those who earned credits in "Asia's Geoeconomic Landscapes and Public Policy I" (5123263, 2023S1S2) are allowed to take this course.

Time: Period 2 (10:25-12:10) on Mondays, unless otherwise announced
The first class is scheduled for Monday, April 8.

Location: Lecture Hall B unless otherwise announced

Instructors: [Toshiro Nishizawa](mailto:tnishizawa@pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp), Professor | tnishizawa@pp.u-tokyo.ac.jp
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Michio Ueda, Visiting Lecturer | geopolitics-and-strategy@miueda.com

TA: TBA

Credits: 2 credits

Language: English

Category: Practical training

Office: Room 1120, 11th floor, International Academic Research Building

Office hours: A one-on-one consultation by appointment can be arranged in person or online.

*Please email me any questions about the course or if you want to make an appointment. To help me notice your incoming emails, **please start the subject line with the course number 5123263** when you send emails.*

1. Objectives

This course allows students to learn how to apply scenario analysis for corporate strategy development and examine the implications of business-minded scenarios and strategies for public policy². This approach aims to fill a perception and behavioral gap between businesspersons and policymakers. Students are to explore multiple scenarios by 2030 and discuss the alternative geoeconomic landscapes around the globe and in Asia. This exercise helps students gain a multifaceted and holistic understanding of Asia's geoeconomic reality in the global context. The course incorporates the Japanese business perspective and employs a practical, hypothesis-driven approach through group work

¹ Director of the Australia-Japan Research Centre and the Asian Bureau of Economic Research, Associate Professor at the Crawford School of Public Policy of The Australian National University, and Editor of the East Asia Forum.

² Ueda leads a scenario analysis methodology and corporate strategy development part, while Nishizawa and Armstrong focus on the implications of business-minded scenarios and strategies for public policy.

beyond academic learning.

Geoeconomics is defined as “the use of economic instruments to promote and defend national interests and to produce beneficial geopolitical results” while taking account of “the effects of other nations’ economic actions on a country’s geopolitical goals” (Blackwell and Harris, 2016, 20). The increasing economic presence of emerging nation-states in recent years, particularly China as a global power, reminds us of the relevance of geoeconomics in world geopolitics and international relations.

2. Background

Asia has provided business opportunities for Japanese firms, but with intensified competition and unprecedented geoeconomic uncertainties. The US-China rivalry is evolving into a new normal. Europe is also striving for strategic autonomy, specifically in rulemaking. Emerging economies, collectively called the Global South, assert greater sovereignty in the economic domain. The world can no longer rely on free trade assumptions and must consider the impact of erratic government policies. Consequently, business management’s central issue now revolves around strategic decisions to continue operations amid these risks, and policymakers must consider such strategic decisions as a basis for policy design and implementation.

Scenario analysis is a foundational methodology for businesspersons and policymakers navigating strategy development in an uncertain world. It helps corporate decision-makers prepare for future risks, identify potential opportunities for businesses to seek a competitive edge, and guide policymakers in designing and implementing effective policy measures.

3. Schedule

Day 1 Mon, April 8 | Introduction (Nishizawa, Armstrong, and Ueda)

Day 2 Mon, April 15 | Basics of scenario analysis and first assignment guidance
(Nishizawa and Ueda)

... Mon, April 15 – Fri, April 19 | Course registration period

Day 3 Mon, April 22 | A follow-up to Day 2 and group work (Nishizawa and Ueda)

... Wed, April 24 – Fri, April 26 | Course registration correction period

... Tue, April 30 | Submission of the answers to the given questions—global
scenarios for 2030

Day 4 Tue, May 7 | Group work and consultation (Nishizawa)

Day 5 Mon, May 13 | Group oral presentation—global scenarios for 2030 (Nishizawa and
Ueda)

Day 6 Mon, May 20 | Discussion on Asia’s geoeconomic scenarios and online lecture by
Prof. Armstrong and discussion (Nishizawa, Armstrong and Ueda)

Day 7 Mon, May 27 | Group work and consultation (Nishizawa)

Day 8 Mon, June 3 (an alternative date and time will be announced) | Lecture by Prof.
Armstrong and discussion (Nishizawa and Armstrong)

Day 9 Mon, June 10 | Group work and consultation (Nishizawa)

Day 10 Mon, June 17 (an alternative date and time will be announced) | Lecture by Prof. Armstrong and discussion (Nishizawa and Armstrong)

... Thu, June 20 | Submission of draft scenarios focusing on Asia for 2030

Day 11 Mon, June 24 | Group work and consultation (Nishizawa)

Day 12 Mon, July 1 | Group oral presentation—scenarios focusing on Asia for 2030 (Nishizawa, Armstrong, and Ueda)

Day 13, Mon, July 8 | Feedback and discussion (Nishizawa and Ueda)

... Mon, July 22 | Submission of the complete (combined) report

4. Teaching Methods

The course consists of interactive sessions with lectures, guidance, feedback, group work, and consultation. Students are asked to work in teams with 3-4 members each.

5. Evaluation criteria and grade items

The evaluation criteria include demonstrating critical thinking, depth of analysis, organization, writing clarity, and presentation quality.

Class attendance 10%

Contribution to the class discussion 20%

First and second group presentations 20% (10% each)

The complete (combined) group report 50%

6. Course materials and references

The course materials will be provided as needed on ITC-LMS.

Students are encouraged to find relevant materials from various sources, such as [East Asia Forum](#), and newspaper and periodical articles.

Students are required to follow a reader-friendly writing style as suggested in [The Elements of Style: Classic Edition \(2018\): With Editor's Notes, New Chapters & Study Guide \(English Edition\)](#).

Part III of the following manual is a standard reference on the editorial style, such as spelling and punctuation, based on [The Chicago Manual of Style](#).

Turabian et al. 2018. [A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations](#), 9th Edition. Kindle Edition. The University of Chicago Press. JPY2,400.

For those interested in the geoeconomics may refer to the following publications.

Blackwill, Robert D., and Jennifer M. Harris. 2016. *War by Other Means: Geoeconomics and Statecraft*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press.

Baldwin, David A. 2020. *Economic Statecraft*. New ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

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