

Two Koreas: Problems and Prospects

Spring 2023

Department of East Asian Studies
National Taiwan Normal University

Course Syllabus

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Time and Place: Tuesdays 1:20 PM – 4:20 PM, 撲 306
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Course Description:

This course deals with the politics, socioeconomic, and foreign policies of the two Koreas. Beginning with an introduction to the legacies of Japanese rule, we will examine the domestic and international process resulting in a war that divided the nation and will discuss the emergence of the two Koreas; Republic of Korea (ROK) and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) as competing regimes within the global context of the Cold War. Closer attention will be put on different path to the nation building and state building. In addition, ideological, socio-economic, and cultural differences separating these regimes will be examined and the unexpected similarities experienced by the people of these mutually antagonistic nation-states will be discussed as well.

Topics include political democratic transition from an authoritarianism in the South, while "Kim's Empire" continues in the North. This course will also cover the rise of North Korea as one of the "Axis of Evil" and its efforts to become "NUKE." Issues related to North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, illicit activities, and the human rights, as well as dialogue, sanctions, and the possibility of reunification will also be covered.

Since this course will incorporate both lectures and seminar formats, students' active participation in discussions will be emphasized.

Course Objectives:

The main goal of this course is to introduce students to the complexities of "Korean Issue" which has been characterized as the fluctuation between conflicts and cooperation and the nature of evolving inter-Korea relations. Secondly, the objective is to provide students with basic understanding of the main trends in the field of government, economy, society, and foreign relations of the two Koreas. Thirdly, this course also is to examine scholarly viewpoints on key issues of Korean history and division; articulate key factors that shape US

and regional policy toward North Korea; distinguish between different sources of information on the two Koreas; and interpret regional developments based on knowledge of Korean issues. Topics include the “Hermit Kingdom” myth; liberation from Japanese colonial rule, division, and war; the economic miracle; North Korean leadership; South and North Korean foreign relations; North Korea as a nuclear threat; and prospects for a unified Korea. Special emphasis will be put on developing a stronger understanding of the two Koreas for practical and professional application.

Throughout this course, students will

- Articulate an in-depth understanding of historical developments on the Korean Peninsula since 1945 and understand a variety of aspects of historical change on the Korean Peninsula, including social change, demography, culture, politics, and economy of North and South Korea.
- Be able to understand the differences in political systems, ideology, political and socioeconomic structure and policies, foreign policies, and core national interests between the North and South Korea.
- To elaborate the complicated military security configuration of regional order of Northeast Asia and be able to evaluate the historical trajectories of North and South Korea and the challenges of reunification.
- Analyze political institutions, recent history, and policy processes in the two Koreas by grasping general knowledge of North Korean politics, society, ideology, and nature of “Kim’s Empire” and international relations as well.
- Understand the strategy of military provocations of North Korea and to account for the determinants that drive North Korea to develop nuclear program and missile technology.
- Develop an abiding interest in the future of the Korean Peninsula and to analyze the prospect of regional and international order centered around Korean peninsula and responses of surrounding countries.

Course Requirements & Evaluation:

1. Students are supposed to attend all the classes, but absence (s) are excused only in case of emergency with necessary proof or documents. Students must read the reading materials and be prepared for the class discussion. Students’ active participation is strongly recommended.
2. Students need to write 2 writing assignments. The assignments should be written in English. All the writing assignment or exams should be turned in on time. 20% of points will be deducted for the late submission. All the writing assignments should be proofread. Students are strongly “required” to have the writing assignments proofread before submission.
3. Students are supposed to make a team project for Class Presentation. 2-3 members will make a team, depending on the final enrollment. Presentation topics are provided by an instructor. Structure, design, contents with most updated data and statistics along with speaking style and preparation will be taken into consideration for grading. Each presentation should not exceed 20 minutes. Further evaluation instruction will be noticed.

4. Periodically Pop-up quizzes on assigned readings and lectures will be administered at the beginning of the class to ensure that students are adequately preparing for class discussion. Time and Dates are given without prior notice.

5. Course grade will be based on the followings,

Midterm Exam	25 %
Final Exam	25%
Writing Assignment	10 %
Class Presentation	25%
Attendance	5%
Participation and Pop-up Quizzes	10%
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	100%

The exams may consist of short identifications, fill the blanks, true/false, multiple choice, and essay questions. No makeup exams will be given. Adequate class preparation and active participation in class discussions are strongly required.

Texts and Recommended Readings:

Major Text: No need to purchase. Chapters will be posted or provided.

1. Don Oberdorfer and Robert Carlin. Revised and Updated 3rd Edition. *The Two Koreas: A Contemporary History*. NY: Basic Books, 2014.
2. Andre Schmid. *Korea Between Empires*. NY: Columbia University Press, 2002.
3. Michael J. Seth. *A Concise History of Korea*. 2nd Edition. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield. 2016.

Weekly Class Schedule

** Weekly class schedule is subject to change according to the level of background understanding and the final enrollment.

Week One: “Introduction: End of Chinese Dominance and Changes in Asian Order”

Introduction: Images and Stereotypes of North and South Korea
Uniqueness of Inter-Korean Relations

Fall of Qing and the End of Chinese Suzerainty over Korea and Taiwan
Tributary Systems and Rise of New Japan

Francis Moulder. Introduction: Chinese Underdevelopment and Japanese Development during the Industrialization Era. (to be provided)

Week Two: “Korean Peninsula from the International Security Perspectives”

Lecture: “Security Perspectives from the Major neighboring states: US, China, Japan, and Russia”

Kyuryoon Kim and Jae-Jeok Park, eds. *Korean Peninsula Division/Unification: From the International Perspectives*. Seoul: KINU (Korea Institute for National Unification, 2012. Chapters 1, 3, 5 and 7.

Michael E. Robinson. *Korea's Twentieth Century Odyssey*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2007. pp. 100-120.

Week Three: “Emergence of Two Koreas and the Origins of the Korean Conflict”

Lecture: “Division and War after the End of Colonial Rule”

Liberation from Japanese Rule

Foundation of Two Koreas: ROK and DPRK

Cold War and Division of Korean Peninsula: Role of the US and USSR

Robinson, Chapter 5. “Liberation, Civil War, and Division,” pp. 100-120.

William Stueck. Why the Korean War, Not the Korean Civil War?” *Rethinking the Korean War: A New Diplomatic and Strategic History*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002. pp. 61-86.

Student Presentation 1:

Student Presentation 2:

Week Four: “Modernization of South Korea”

Lecture: “Modernization and Growth: “Development State” under Authoritarian Rule”

“Miracle of Han River” and “Four Asian Tigers”

Atul Kohli. “Where Do High-Growth Political Economic Come From? The Japanese Lineage of Korea’s Developmental State,” *World Development*. 22 (9), 1994. pp. 1269-1293.

Student Presentation 3:

Student Presentation 4:

Week Five: “Democratic Transition in the South”

Lecture: “Long Path to Democratization”

Student Uprising for Democracy and the End of Syngman Rhee Regime

Emergence of Militarism and Authoritarianism under Park Chung Hee

Joan E. Cho and Paul Y. Chang. “Socioeconomic Foundation of Korea’s Democracy Movement, 1970-1979” in Youna Kim, eds. *Routledge Handbook of Korean Culture and Society: A Global Approach*. London: Routledge, 2016. pp. 63-75.

Student Presentation 4:

Student Presentation 6:

Week Six: “Inter-Korea Relations: Ups and Downs”

Lecture: “Trajectory of Cooperation and Conflicts between the two Koreas”

From Park Chung Hee to Park Keun Hye
Fluctuation between Confrontation and Cooperation
Dilemma of Moon Jae In’s “Moonlight Policy”

Yangmu Ku, at, al. *Politics in North and South Korea: Political Development, Economy, and Foreign Relations*. London: Routledge, 2018. pp. 192-214.

Student Presentation 7:

Student Presentation 8:

Week Seven: “The North Korean Issue in Domestic Politics in the South”

Lecture: “North Korea: Partner or Enemy”

Same Nation, Different State: Reunifying Korea: How, When and by Whom?”

Pratamasari, A. “Kim Jung Un’s Change of Stance: North Korea’s Rapprochement for Peace in 2018. *North Korean Review*. 15 (2), 2019, pp. 23-37.

Asan Institute for Policy Studies. US-North Korea Summit and South Koreans’ Perceptions of Neighboring Countries. Asan Report: Public Opinion Studies Program. July 2018.

<https://en.asaninst.org/contents/u-s-north-korea-summit-and-south-koreans-perceptions-of-neighboring-countries/>

Student Presentation 9:

Student Presentation 10:

Week Eight: “Mid-Term Exam”

2 Hours (Further details will be provided)

Week Nine: “Foundation of DPRK”

Lecture: “Two Koreas in World Affairs: From Division to War”

From Cairo Declaration to the Yalta
Russian Occupation of the North
Emergence of Kim Il Sung: “How One-Man Dictatorship Came to North Korea?”

Watching Video (I): “Inside North Korea’ Dynasty Part I: Kingdome of the Kims”

Donald MacDonald. *The Koreans: Contemporary Politics and Society*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1966.

Michael J. Seth. *A Concise History of Korea*. 2nd Edition. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield. 2016. pp. 283-324.

Student Presentation 11:
Student Presentation 12:

Week Ten: “Understanding North Korean Regime: Political System”

Lecture: Political System and Leadership of North Korea”

Foundation of a “Partisan Family State”
From Kim Il Sung to Kim Jung Un
Family Succession of “Kim’s Empire”

Watching Video (II): “Inside North Korea’ Dynasty Part 2: Son of God”

Daniel Byman and Jennifer Lind. “Pyongyang’s Survival Strategy: Tools of Authoritarian Control in North Korea.” *International Security*, 35 (1), Summer 2010, pp. 44-74.

Heonik Kwon and Byung-Ho Chung. “North Korea’s Partisan Family State,” *Asia-Pacific Journal*. 10 (28), July 2012.

<https://apjif.org/2012/10/28/Heonik-Kwon/3789/article.html>

Student Presentation 13:
Student Presentation 14:

Week Eleven: “North Korea under Kim Jung II”

Lecture: “North Korea under Great Leader Kim Il Sung”

End of Cold War and Changes in International Order
From “Juche Thoughts” to “Policy of Military First”
Development of nuclear weapon and missile program

Watching Video (III): “Inside North Korea’ Dynasty Part 3: Nuclear Family”

Student Presentation 15:
Student Presentation 16:

Week Twelve: “North Korea under Kim Jung Un”

Lecture: “North Korea under Kim Jung Il and Kim Jung Eun”

Economic, Military and Foreign and Defense Policies
From “Military First Policy” to “Parallel Policy”

Watching Video (IV): “Inside North Korea’ Dynasty Part4: Rocket Man”

Student Presentation 17:
Student Presentation 18:

Week Thirteen: “Nuclear Crisis in the Korean Peninsula”

Lecture: Origin and Development of North Korea’s “NUKE” Policy

How Does the South Korea Think of North Korea? : “Provocation” or “Engagement?”

Jong-Yun Bae. “South Korean Strategic Thinking toward North Korea: The Evolution of the Engagement Policy and Its Impact Upon US-ROK Relations.” *Asian Survey*. 50 (2), 2010. pp. 335-355.

Don Oberdorfer. *The Two Koreas*. NY: Basic Books, Updated and Revised Edition. 2014.

Student Presentation 19:
Student Presentation 20:

Week Fourteen: “North Korea’s NUKE and Major Powers”

Lecture: “Same Bed Different Dreams”: Strategies and Goals of Major Powers”

North Korea and China: “Bloody Ally” vs. “Fed Up”
North Korea and the U.S.: “Sanction vs. Engagement?”
North Korea Towards Japan and Russia

David Kang. “North Korea’s Relations with the United States and the Rest of the World,” Kyung-Ae Park and Scott Snyder, eds. *North Korea in Transition: Politics, Economy and Society*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2013.

Scott Snyder. *China’s Rise and the Two Koreas: Politics, Economics, Security.*” Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2009.

Student Presentation 21:
Student Presentation 22:

Week Fifteen: “The Two Koreas: Reunification?”

Lecture: “Peaceful Reunification? Unified by the South or the North?”

How the Neighboring States View the “Unified Korea?”

Haksoon Paik. “Changes and Continuities in Inter-Korean Relations,” Eds. Kyung-Ae Park and Scott Snyder. *North Korea in Transition: Politics, Economy, and Society*. Lanham MD: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers. 2013.

Jong Kun Choi. “The Perils of Strategic Patience with North Korea,” *The Washington Quarterly*, Winter 2016, pp. 57-72.

Robert D. Kaplan. "When North Korea Falls," *The Atlantic Monthly*. October 2006.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2006/10/when-north-korea-falls/305228/>

Student Presentation 23:

Student Presentation 24:

Week Sixteen: "Final Exam"

2 Hours (Further details will be provided)