

AAAS 382R KOREAN POLITICS THROUGH CINEMA
Binghamton University, Fall 2011

T/Th 4:25-5:50
Classroom:
Office hours: T 2-4pm
Office: LT 305

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce Korean politics to students who are interested in understanding Korea, a divided country whose political fate has tightly been interwoven with American foreign policy. While the primary focus will be placed on examining the politics of contemporary period, this course will survey how the tumultuous history of modern Korea has contributed to the complexities of present political conditions, both in the north and the south. The course is structured to explore the questions of Japanese colonialism, the Korean War and national division, economic growth under military dictatorships, political democratization in the late 1980s, the intricacy of inter-Korean relations, and the US involvement in the politics of the Korean peninsula. By investigating these questions, students will better understand the origins of the present political divides in Korea. To facilitate students' understanding of these complexities, this course incorporates readings, movies, and documentaries that depict the turbulent political experiences Korea underwent over the last several decades.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- (1) Students are expected to learn the historical facts and theoretical discussions of modern Korean politics.
- (2) Students are expected to engage in critical examinations of the readings, films, and discussions offered in class.
- (3) Students are expected to produce oral and written assignments that demonstrate their knowledge of class materials, ability to connect theoretical and practical issues, and articulation of insightful thinking.

GRADING AND EVALUATION

1. Attendance and discussion participation: 10%

Regular attendance is a must for this class. If students have inevitable reasons for their absence, they have to inform the professor in advance. In case of absences, students are required to provide legitimate reasons and supporting documentation.

Students who miss more than 4 classes will automatically fail in this course.

2. Reading quizzes: 3 x 10 points = 30%

There will be 3 quizzes throughout the semester to make sure students complete the assigned readings and understand the key concepts and terms discussed in class. 5-10 short questions (no multiple choices).

3. Film review (4-5 pages or 900-1000 words): 20%

Each student chooses 1 film among the 4 films to be screened in class and writes a critical review paper. A list of the 4 films appears in the course materials section. Students need to watch the film before class and submit the paper on the day of class screening. The whole class will watch only parts of the film. The paper should address specific questions about the film and the political problems portrayed in the film. Specific guidelines for each film will be provided by the professor.

4. Short paper (6-7 pages or 1300-1400 words) and presentation: 30%

Students write a short paper that connects one significant political event or issue in modern Korean politics to individuals' personal life. The paper should discuss how this specific political experience has affected the fate of the student, the student's family or other personal acquaintances. Students may engage in independent research on the political event or conduct interviews if necessary. A specific date for presentation will be assigned and the paper should be submitted on the presentation day.

5. Final response paper (2-3 pages or 600-700 words): 10%

Students write a short paper that summarizes their learning experience in class. The paper needs to discuss the most interesting thing they learned in class and how it contributed to their understanding of Korean politics.

* All written assignments should be within the page limit set for each assignment, excluding tables, figures, and bibliography. Font 12 and double-spacing recommended. Full citations (in-text and bibliography) of all the sources used in the writings should be provided in appropriate formats. Provide a final word count.

Special events

There will be a couple of occasions (invited talks, presentations, or conferences) that students are encouraged to participate for extra credits. Announcements will be made by the professor.

Late submissions

Assignments that fail to meet the deadlines will result in losing one third of a letter grade for every 24-hour tardiness from the original due date.

Incomplete

No incomplete will be granted in this course unless the student provides evidence of emergencies such as family bereavement or medical treatment.

Grade scale

A: Above 94	B+: 87-90	C+: 77-80	D: Below 70
A-: 91-93	B: 84-86	C: 74-76	F: Below 60
	B-: 81-83	C-: 71-73	

COURSE MATERIALS

Required book

Uk Heo and Terence Roehrig. *South Korea Since 1980* (Cambridge University Press 2010)

Other readings

Journal articles and book chapters selected from sources other than the required book are available on Blackboard (Course Reserves).

Films to be screened in class (1-4: for critical reviews)

- (1) "Welcome to Dongmakgol" (by Gwang-hyun Park, 2005)
- (2) "The President's Barber" (by Chan-sang Im, 2004)
- (3) "Peppermint Candy" (by Chang-dong Lee, 2000)
- (4) "North Korea Beyond the DMZ" (by J. T. Takagi and Hye-jung Park, 2003)

- "Repatriation" (by Dong-won Kim, 2004)
- "A Single Spark" (by Gwang-soo Park, 1995)
- "The June Struggle for Democracy" (by Korea Democracy Foundation, 2007)
- "The Game of their Lives" (by Daniel Gordon, 2002)
- "A State of Mind" (by Daniel Gordon, 2004)

CLASS ETHICS

Plagiarism (<http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/instruct/plagfaculty.htm>)

Plagiarism is defined as presenting the work of another person as one's own work (including papers, words, ideas, information, computer code, data, evidence organizing principles, or style of presentation of someone else taken from the internet, books, periodicals, or other sources). It includes:

- Quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing without acknowledgement, even a few phrases
- Failing to acknowledge the source of either a major idea or ordering principle central to one's own paper
- Relying on another person's data, evidence, or critical method without credit or permission
- Submitting another person's work as one's own
- Using unacknowledged research sources gathered by someone else.

→To avoid plagiarism, students should learn how to do the proper citation for the sources they are using in their writing. Students may choose whichever citation format that suits their writing needs, but it is recommended that they stay with one format and fully familiarize themselves with the specifics.

Cheating

Students are expected to have only exam sheets and pens on the table when they are taking quizzes, tests, or exams. Cell phones and laptops should be turned off.

→ Any detection of plagiarism or cheating will result in a failing grade and a report to the University administration.

Electronic devices

Cell phones should be turned off during class. Laptops can be used in class but no web browsing is allowed. If it is found, points will be deducted from class attendance and participation.

Contacting the professor

If students feel overwhelmed by the course materials or encounter other personal difficulties that may affect their performance in class, they should immediately contact the professor and seek consultation EARLY in the semester. I will be happy to offer any additional guidance that might be needed for each student.

DATE	TOPIC	READING/FILM
8/30	First class: Introduction and overview	
9/1	Japanese colonialism	B. Cumings, <i>Korea's Place in the Sun</i> (139-184)
9/6	Ibid	K. Ceuster, "The nation exorcised" (207-242)
9/8	The Korean War	B. Cumings, <i>The Korean War</i> (3-35)
9/13	Ibid	Youtube: B. Cumings lecture
9/15	Ibid	Film 1 "Welcome to Dongmakgol"
9/20	National division	B. Cumings, "Occurrence at Nogun-ri bridge" (509-526)
9/22	Ibid	Quiz 1 J. Suh, "Truth and reconciliation in South Korea" (503-524) & Clips from "Repatriation" and the TRC
9/27	Ibid	Presentation 1 (The Korean War and national division)
10/4	Military dictatorship	Heo and Roehrig, p.17-27
10/6	Ibid	H. Koo, <i>Korean Workers</i> (23-68) Clips from "The Single Spark"
10/11	Ibid	N. Lee, <i>The Making of Minjung</i> (70-123)
10/13	Ibid	Film 2 "The President's Barber"
10/18	Kwangju massacre	Heo and Roehrig, p.28-36 G. Shin, <i>Contentious Kwangju</i> (xi-xxxii)
10/20	Ibid	Film 3 "Peppermint Candy"
10/25	Ibid	Quiz 2 M. Seth, <i>A History of Korea</i> (415-436) Clips from "The June Struggle for Democracy"
10/27	Democratization	Presentation 2 (Korea in the 1970s and 1980s)
11/1	Ibid	Heo and Roehrig, p.36-77
11/3	Ibid	K. Moon, "Korean nationalism, anti-Americanism, and democratic consolidation" (135-157)
11/8	Ibid	Presentation 3 (Korea in the 1980s and 1990s)
11/10	Ibid	Presentation 4 (Korea in the 1980s and 1990s)
11/15	North Korea	Ch. Armstrong, <i>The Koreas</i> (57-88)
11/17	Ibid	Heo and Roehrig, p.129-156
11/22	Ibid	Film 4 "North Korea Beyond the DMZ"
11/29	Ibid	V. Cha and D. Kang, "The debate over North Korea" (229-255)
12/1	Ibid	Quiz 3 S. Ryang, <i>North Korea</i> (1-21) Clips from "A State of Mind" and "The Game of their Lives"
12/6	Ibid	Presentation 5 (North Korea)
12/8	Last class: Wrap-up and course evaluation	