Social Change in Modern Korea

Underwood International College
Yonsei University
Spring 2008

Instructor: Paul Y. Chang
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Wednesdays: 1 – 2 pm
Fridays: 1 – 3 pm
Place: New Millennium Hall, Room 104

Course Description

In this course we will survey the development of Korean society in modern times. We will begin with the end of the Chosun Dynasty and cover the Japanese colonial period (1910-1945), the Korean War and emergence of two Korean nation-states (1948-1953), and the contemporary period (1960-present). This course will provide students with an understanding of the main debates in (English language) Korean historiography. The course is divided into two distinct parts. First, we will cover Korea’s political and economic development, covering topics such as Japanese colonization, the Korean War, emergence of the North and South Korean states, industrialization, the democracy movement, etc. Second, we will cover Korea’s socio-cultural development, covering topics such as religion, popular culture, demographic changes, etc. Upon completion of the course, students should have a thorough grasp of the political, economic, and socio-cultural changes Korea underwent in the 20th century.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to complete all reading assignments prior to attending the lecture corresponding to the assignment. Lectures will not summarize readings but will build upon them. Students are expected to participate in discussion sections where students will present summaries and critiques of the readings. Students will take two examinations, corresponding to the substantive parts of the course. In addition, students will form groups of 4-5 and explore an issue related to any of the topics covered in the class. Student groups will present the results of their research to the entire class in a formal presentation.

Course Evaluation

1. MIDTERM Exam (30%)
2. FINAL EXAM (30%)
3. GROUP PRESENTATION (20%)
4. DISCUSSION PARTICIPATION (20%)

Course Reading Materials

1. Course Reader: Includes various articles and chapters to supplement the lectures.
PART I: POLITICAL-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN KOREA

WEEK 1: HERMIT KINGDOM NO MORE, THE OPENING OF KOREA

3/5
Lecture 1: Introduction

Reading 1:
- no readings

3/7
Lecture 2: The Decline of the Chosun Dynasty and the Opening of Korea

Reading 2:

WEEK 2: KOREA ON THE EVE OF COLONIZATION

3/12
Lecture 3: The Reordering of the East Asian Order

Reading 3:

3/14
Lecture 4: The Colonization of Korea

Reading 4:

WEEK 3: POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN COLONIAL KOREA

3/19
Lecture 5: Competing Nationalist Strategies

Reading 5:
3/21
Lecture 6: Colonial Industrialization

Reading 6:

WEEK 4: LIBERATION AND THE BIRTH OF TWO KOREAN NATIONS

3/26
Lecture 9: The Soviet Union and the Founding of North Korea

Reading 9:

3/28
Lecture 10: The United States and the Founding of South Korea

Reading 10:

Extra Credit Reading

WEEK 5: THE KOREAN WAR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH KOREA

4/2
Lecture 9: The Korean War

Reading 9:
Lecture 10: The North Korean Economic Project

Reading 10:

WEEK 6: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH KOREA

4/9
Lecture 11: Industrialization under Park Chung Hee

Reading 11:

4/11
Lecture 12: The "IMF" Crisis and the Liberalization of the Korean Economy

Reading 12:

WEEK 7: SOUTH KOREA'S DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

4/16

Reading 13:

4/18
Lecture 14: The Kwangju Uprising and the 1980s Democracy Movement

Reading 14:

WEEK 8: THE NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR ISSUE AND REUNIFICATION

4/23
Lecture 15: North Korea's Nuclear Program and International Intervention

Reading 15:

4/25
Lecture 16: Reunification of North and South Korea

Reading 16:

WEEK 9: MIDTERM EXAM WEEK

4/30
Lecture 17: MIDTERM EXAMINATION REVIEW

Reading 17:
- no readings

5/2
Lecture 18: MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Reading 18:
- no readings
PART II: SOCIO-CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN KOREA

WEEK 10: KOREAN RELIGIONS

5/7
Lecture 19: Korean Traditional Religions

Reading 19:

5/9
Lecture 20: Korean Christianity

Reading 20:

Extra Credit Reading

WEEK 11: GENDER ROLES AND THE KOREAN DIASPORA

5/14
Lecture 21: Gender Roles in Korea

Reading 21:

5/16
Lecture 22: Korean Migration
Reading 22:
- TBA

**WEEK 12: CULTURAL PRODUCTION AND THE SPREAD OF POPULAR CULTURE**

5/21
Lecture 23: Cultural Production in the Colonial Period

Reading 23:

5/23
Lecture 24: Hallyu: The Korean Wave and the Global Spread of Korean Popular Culture

Reading 24:

**WEEK 13: KOREAN IDENTITY AND A MULTI-ETHNIC KOREA?**

5/28
Lecture 25: Mutli-Ethnic Korea?

Reading 25:

5/30
Lecture 26: Korean Identity Revisited

Reading 26:
WEEK 14: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

6/4
Lecture 27: Student Presentations

Reading 27:
- no readings

6/6
MEMORIAL DAY, NO CLASS

WEEK 15: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS AND FINAL EXAM REVIEW

6/11
Lecture 28: Student Presentations

Reading 28:
- no readings

6/13
Lecture 29: Final Exam Review

Reading 29:
- no readings

WEEK 16: FINAL EXAM