

**IEE 3131 Politics & Society of North Korea
Summer 2010, the Yonsei International Summer School (YISS)**

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Course information:

Prerequisite: none
Location of classroom: New Millennium Hall #107
Credit hours: New Millennium Hall #107 3
Days and time: 11:00 am to 12:40 pm, Mondays through Thursdays

Required Readings:

Suk Hi Kim, *North Korea at a Crossroads*, McFarland & Co., Jefferson, North Carolina, 2003. (One complimentary copy will be available to all students)
Suk Hi Kim and Semoon Chang (ed.), *Economic Sanctions against a Nuclear North Korea*, McFarland & Co., Jefferson, North Carolina, 2007. (One complimentary copy will be available to all students).
North Korean Review, a peer-reviewed journal published twice annually by McFarland & Company, Inc. Publishers.
The Korea Times (English-language daily newspaper published in South Korea).
Unpublished handout articles and notes

Course Description and Objectives:

North Korea is one of the few countries that could suddenly involve the four major powers—the United States, Japan, China, and Russia—in major military operations. Given their gravity and urgency, it is important for college students, future leaders of the world to understand key issues of North Korea. Thus, this course is designed to provide college students with knowledge of politics, economy, and society of North Korea. Although this course reviews historical developments of North Korea, it places a special emphasis on prominent contemporary issues of the country, such as economic reform, famine, six-party talks, the weapons of mass destruction, and the strategic role of North Korea in U.S.-Northeast Asian relations.

Instructional Methods:

A variety of methods--lecture, presentation, term paper, guest lecture, discussion, video watch, and others--will be used to make this course enjoyable. A number of scholars and policy makers will be invited to talk about a topic of their choice on North Korean internal and external affairs. In consultation with students, the instructor will try to arrange a trip to an important location on inter-Korean relations, such as the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The class will be divided into groups that will complete the following assignments:

Assignment 1: Oral Presentation on a Topic of North Korea: Each group should select one out of those in the topical outlines and assignments at the end of this syllabus and make a minimum of 15 minute-presentation. The presentations should identify key questions of the chosen topic, show how reading materials and other materials answer these questions, and outline the presenters' own view on these questions. It is strongly recommended that you seek out additional information from a variety of sources to enrich your presentation.

Assignment 2: Term Paper: Each group is required to write a term paper on the topic of their choice about North Korea. The paper should be international in nature, which means that it should involve at least two countries (i.e., six-party talks, inter-Korean relations, and the Obama administration's policy about North Korea). The length of the paper should be approximately 15-20 pages, typed and double spaced. The instructor will consider the possible publication of the top paper in *North Korean Review*. The instructor will discuss details of the paper at the first class meeting.

Assignment 3: Discussion on North Korean Related Articles: Each group is expected to read North Korean related articles that appear in *the Korea Times* and present a summary of these articles along with their views on a weekly basis.

Testing Procedures and Course Evaluation:

The course grade will depend on one open-note exam (30%), summary notes on required readings and lectures by the instructor and guest speakers (15%), the term paper (30%), and other assignments (25%). Other assignments include attendance, class participation, presentation about North Korean related articles that appear in *the Korea Times*, and others. The examination will cover required readings and lectures by both the instructor and guest speakers. The grading scale is as follows: 90 for A, 80 for B, 70 for C, 60 for D, and 59 or below for F.

Topical Outline and Assignments

1st Week (June 29-July 1)

Topic: Introduction

The instructor will discuss details of the grading policy, a term paper, and other assignments.

Topic: The strategic role of North Korea in Northeast Asia

Suk Hi Kim, "Korea as the Hub of Northeast Asia: And North Korea-U.S. Relations," (unpublished article).

Hong Nack Kim, "U.S. – North Korea Relations under the Obama Administration: Problems and Prospects," *North Korean Review*, spring 2010.

2nd Week (July 5-8)

Topic: Historical developments of North Korea

Kim and Chang, Chapter 1: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Andrew Scobell, "The Revolution of North Korea's Political System and Pyongyang's Potential Conflict Management," *North Korean Review*, spring 2008.

Kim, Chapter 2: The Korean War (1950-1953): Causes and Consequences

Ralph C. Hassig and Kongdan Oh, "North Korea's Clash of Cultures." *North Korean Review*, fall 2008.

Topic: North Korean Nuclear standoff and six-party talks

Marcus Noland, "Economic Implications of North Korean Nuclear Breakout," *North Korean Review*, spring 2007.

Peter Hayes, "The Beijing Deal Is Not the Agreed Framework," *North Korean Review*, fall 2007.

C. Kenneth Quinones, "Can the Nuclear Deal with North Korea Succeed?" *North Korean Review*, fall 2007.

3rd Week (July 12-15)

Topic: Economic Sanctions and Weapons of Mass Destruction

Michael Whitty, Suk Kim, and Trevor Crick, "The Effectiveness of Economic Sanctions against North Korea," in Kim and Chang (ed), *Economic Sanctions against a Nuclear North Korea*, Chapter 4.

Karin Lee and Julia Choi, "U.S. Sanctions and Treasury Department Actions against North Korea from 1955 to October 2007," *North Korean Review*, spring 2008.

Semoon Chang, "Should Economic Sanctions against North Korea Be Lifted?" *North Korean Review*, fall 2006.

Alon Levkowitz, "Why Do We Not Understand the DPRK?" *North Korean Review*, fall 2007.

Topic: North Korean Famine and Economic Reform

William Moon, "The Origin of the Great North Korean Famine: Its Dynamics and Normative Implications," *North Korean Review*, spring 2009.

Thomas Cargill and Elliott Parker, "Economic and Financial Reform: Alternatives for North Korea," *North Korean Review*, fall 2005.

Bernhard Seliger, "The July 2002 Reforms in North Korea: Liberman-Style Reforms or Road to Transformation," *North Korean Review*, fall 2005.

Kyung-Ae Park, "Regime Change in North Korea: Economic Reform or Political Opportunity Structures?" *North Korean Review*, spring 2009.

4th Week (July 19-22)

Topic: Exam

This exam covers those materials students will study for the first three weeks from Week 1 to Week 3.

Topic: U.S.-North Korean Relations

Edward A. Olsen, "U.S.-North Korea Relations: Foreign Policy Dilemma," *North Korean Review*, fall 2005.

Mel Gurtov, "Northeast Asia Policy under George W. Bush: Doctrine in Search of Policy," *North Korean Review*, and spring 2007.

SeungHyun Lee, "Impact of the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement on Inter-Korean Relations," *North Korean Review*, spring 2008.

Mikyong Kim, "North Korea Place in the U.S. Presidency: Echoes and Moral Judgment," *North Korean Review*, fall 2009.

5th Week (July 26-29)

Topic: Survival Strategy of North Korea

Sung-Hoon Lim and Kang-Taeg Lim, "Special Economic Zones as Survival Strategy of North Korea," *North Korean Review*, fall 2006.

Kim, Chapter 3: North Korean Continuing Survival: The Pathway of Confucianism and Self Reliance."

Terrence Roehrig, "North Korea and the Northern Limit Line," *North Korean Review*, spring 2009.

Topic: North Korean Human Rights

Jack Boettcher, "*The U.S. North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004: A Summary*," *North Korean Review*, fall 2005.

Jacques Boettcher, "The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004: More Rhetoric or a New U.S. Policy Statement," *North Korean Review*, spring 2006.

Semoon Chang, "The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004," *North Korean Review*, spring 2006.

6th Week (August 2-5)

Topic: The U.S. Recession of 2007-2009 and Its Impact on North Korea

Semoon Chang, "The Likely Impact of the U.S. Recession on Negotiations with North Korea," *North Korean Review*, fall 2009.

Suk Hi Kim, "The U.S. Financial Crisis of 2007-2010 and North Korea," unpublished lecture notes

Topic: Term Paper Presentation and Summary Notes Due