The Two Koreas: Contemporary Research and Record [765.712]
Professor J.J. Suh   SAIS Fall 2011

Class: Tuesdays, 2:15-4:15 P.M. | BOB 714
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 4:30-6:30 P.M., or by appointment
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Course Objectives

The course will explore contemporary political issues in South and North Korea. The first part of the course will consist primarily of lectures and discussion about the theoretical and historical context of current events in U.S.-Korean relations. In the second part of the course, students will prepare and present drafts of individual reports on selected issues for a U.S.-Korea yearbook for 2011 to be published by the U.S.-Korea Institute at SAIS in 2012. During the Thanksgiving break, student authors will also travel as a group with a professor on a one-week research trip to Seoul to test their ideas with experts and officials, and revise their reports on their return. Students will develop an expert understanding of current events in U.S. relations with both North and South Korea, based on reading, guided research, and development of academic and official contacts in both Washington, D.C., and Seoul.

Requirements

1. Students are expected to read the required readings before each class, prepare a one-page single-spaced memo (500 words), and participate actively in class discussions. 6 memos are required.
2. Students will select the subjects of their yearbook chapters by the third class after consultation with the professor. During the latter part of the course, students will present, to the class, drafts of their reports, and peer review others’ draft. The draft should be as close to the final report as possible in length and quality, and is due by midnight Sunday October 30, 2011.
3. The final report for publication in the yearbook should be approximately 5,000 words in length. It is due by Tuesday December 13, 2011. Those students whose papers are selected for publication in the yearbook are responsible for working with a copyeditor in the spring term until the publication process is completed.

Grading

Grades will be based on class participation (30%), the first draft of the report for the yearbook (30%), the peer review (10%), and the final version of the report for publication (30%).
Lateness in submitting the draft and final report will be penalized: a letter grade by the day. No extension will be granted under any circumstances, except for death in immediate family.

**Honor Code**

SAIS has adopted the University’s policy on integrity that obligates each student to conduct all activities in accordance with the rules and spirit of the school’s honor code. Each student must familiarize himself/herself with the policy which can be found at [http://jhuresearch.jhu.edu/Policy_on_Integrity_in_Research.pdf](http://jhuresearch.jhu.edu/Policy_on_Integrity_in_Research.pdf).

**Reading**

Required readings for each class are listed below. As the course progresses, the professor will make available additional, optional readings for the class as a whole and assist individual students in identifying source materials for their reports. To keep abreast of current events, students should subscribe to the Nautilus Peace and Security Network [http://www.nautilus.org/GC/mailing-lists/napsnet](http://www.nautilus.org/GC/mailing-lists/napsnet).

Since significant portions of the following three books are required reading, students may find it convenient to purchase them (they are available from online booksellers). They will also be on reserve in the SAIS library.


**The Course Plan, Week by Week**

I. Theoretical Frameworks
II. Nuclear Challenges
   - From Confrontation to Engagement to Confrontation
   - To Engage or to Contain?
III. Alliance Challenges
   - Development of the “Blood Alliance”
   - Democratization and Transformation
IV. Economic Challenges
   - Economic Development
   - The “IMF Crisis” and FTA
V. Korean Politics
   - Domestic Politics and Inter-Korean Relations
VI. Yearbook Drafts
The U.S. faces a crisis over the North Korean nuclear and missile programs, and is carefully managing its relations with South Korea over how to deal with those challenges. Can Washington manage its relations with the two Koreas without creating problems with one? The ROK-US Alliance remains one of the oldest security ties, but how is it adjusting to changes in military technology, American strategy, and Korea’s domestic politics? KORUS-FTA has been negotiated and signed by the two governments in the US and Korea, but will it be ratified by the legislative bodies? If so, what would be its impacts? We will discuss these and other major bilateral issues in the context of the history of U.S.-Korean relations.

We will also discuss class content, schedule, and procedures. The yearbook on U.S.-Korean relations that the class will produce is similar in concept to the Annual Briefing Book on U.S.-Japanese relations that SAIS has published for over twenty years. You may read about that project at http://www.sais-jhu.edu/centers/reischauer/b_book.html, and view the latest online edition of the yearbook at http://www.sais-jhu.edu/centers/reischauer/2003BB.pdf. The U.S.-Korea Institute has published five issues (2006 - 2010) of the Korea Yearbook, which are available at http://uskoreainstitute.org/2011/05/07/2010yearbook/. The professor will also bring hard copies to the first class for students to examine.

Required Readings:

Oberdorfer, Preface, and chapters 1-3.


Recommended Readings:


1. Theoretical Frameworks

2. Theoretical Frameworks

Required Readings:


### II. Nuclear Challenges

#### 3. From Confrontation to Engagement to Confrontation Tuesday, September 13

We will look in detail at North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs and the challenge they pose to the ROK and the U.S. We will also explore how differences in the ROK and U.S. approaches to this problem put their alliance under strain.

**Required Readings:**

Cumings, chapters 4 and 5.

Oberdorfer, chapters 11-16, and Afterword.


**Recommended Readings:**

http://www.kedo.org/pdfs/AgreedFramework.pdf

The Perry Report, October 12, 1999. (8 pp.)
http://www.armscontrol.org/Events/perryreport.asp

Kim Dae-Jung Presidential Library and Museum, “Lessons of the German Reunification and the Korean Peninsula,” Speech by President Kim Dae-Jung at the Free


4. To Engage or To Contain? Tuesday, September 20

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


III. Alliance Challenges

5. Development of the “Blood Alliance” Tuesday, September 27

Required Readings:

Suh, Power, Interest, and Identity in Military Alliances, chapters 2, 3, and 4.


Recommended Readings:


President Roh’s pursuit of a more self-reliant South Korean security policy, and changes in U.S. military doctrine and obligations elsewhere, are resulting in major changes to the alliance. This class will examine the origins of changed policies and discuss the implications for the future of the alliance.

Required Readings:

Cumings, chapter 7.

Oberdorfer, chapter 4.


Recommended Readings:


IV. Economic Challenges

7. Economic Development Tuesday, October 11

What factors contributed to South Korea’s economic development? What role, if any, did government intervention and international politics play in the economic “take-off”?

Required readings:


Cumings, ch. 6.


**Recommended Readings:**


**8. The “IMF Crisis” and FTA**  
*Tuesday, October 18*

While U.S.-South Korean economic relations are less contentious today than a decade ago, the South Korean public remains concerned about perceived inequalities in the economic relationship, and the U.S. has challenged Korean trade policies in a number of sectors. A joint effort by the two governments to negotiate a free trade agreement is generating controversy in the ROK. This class will examine the history, status, and prospects of U.S.-Korean economic, trading, and financial relations, and how they fit into the overall picture of U.S.-Korean bilateral ties.

**Required Reading**


Recommended Readings:


**V. Korean Politics**

**9. Domestic Politics and Inter-Korean Relations** Tuesday, October 25
Park, Sunwon, J.J. Suh, and Hahn Kim, “Dilemmas of Cooptation: Democratic Consolidation and Its Limits in Korea.” (manuscript)


**Recommended Readings:**


**Kaesung IC case study**

**VI. Yearbook Drafts**

10. Tuesday, November 1: Presentation and peer review of drafts.

11. Tuesday, November 8: Presentation and peer review of drafts.

12. Tuesday, November 15: Presentation and peer review of drafts / Briefing on the Field Trip.


14. Tuesday, November 29: Students make trip reports.

Tuesday December 13: Final reports due.