

KOR 151

Education and Social Changes in Contemporary Korea

CLASS SCHEDULE: T, TH Time: 2:00-3:15p.m. Classroom: New West 219

INSTRUCTOR: Ji-Yeon O. Jo, Ph.D. (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to Korean Studies and focuses on two main themes—education and social changes. We will discuss major social changes in contemporary South Korea by examining issues such as modernization, regionalism, class, gender, family, ethnic nationalism, globalization, and the culture of consumption and will explore their relationships with the condition of education. The Korean education system is known for its competitiveness and academic rigor and South Koreans are famous for their educational zeal. Although South Koreans' high achievement in education is considered by many as one of the major contributors to the speedy economic growth of the country, the excessive educational zeal has also created many social problems. We will pay particular heed to the driving forces of and dynamic relationships between South Korean education and social changes. This course is designed to help students to develop a foundational understanding of contemporary issues in South Korea.

This course fulfills the criteria for general education Social and Behavioral Science (SS) and Beyond the North Atlantic (BN).

EXPECTED STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to become familiar with the major educational and social issues in modern and contemporary Korea. Students are also expected to develop analytic skills to critically examine social and educational phenomena to enhance their understanding of contemporary Korea.

COURSE MATERIALS

Course readings and materials will be posted on the SAKAI.
<https://sakai.unc.edu/portal>

RESOURCES

Subject Guides: <http://guides.lib.unc.edu/korean>
Korean Media Resources: <http://unc.v1.libguides.com/kmedia>
Writing Center: <http://writingcenter.unc.edu/>

GRADING

Your grade will be determined on the following basis:

- 10% Class preparation and participation
- 50% Tests: Midterm (20%)+Final (30%)
- 15% Korea Correspondent & Respondent
- 25% Research Project and Presentation

Final grades are based on each student’s performance on the course requirement categories listed above and are not distributed on a normal curve. It is derived from the sum of percentage points you get from each of the categories above. Students who do not complete all requirements in a course by the end of the semester, but who could pass the course if they did, receive a temporary grade of **IN** (incomplete) or **AB** (absent from the final exam) in place of a permanent letter grade. Grades of IN and AB carry the value of an F grade (zero quality points) and are used in the computation of semester and cumulative grade point averages. For grading policy: <http://www.catalog.unc.edu/policies-procedures/attendance-grading-examination/#Grading%20System>

Grade Distribution:

	A:	>= 94%	A-:	90-93.9%
B+:	B:	83-86.9%	B-:	80-82.9%
C+:	C:	73-76.9%	C-:	70-72.9%
D+:	D:	60-65.9%		
F:		< 60%		

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATIONS

Class preparation and participation (10%): Students are expected to attend ALL classes.

Regular attendance and active participation are essential foundations for learning. My expectations for your class preparation and participation are as follows:

- Preparation: Complete all assignments before the class starts on the due date. Completion of assignments will enable you to fully participate during the class and to have a better performance for the course.
- Participation: You are expected to be attentive during the class and participate actively during class discussions. To create an optimal learning environment for everyone, please take turns when you ask questions or participate in discussions, and treat others with respect. Please turn off your cell phones before class. Please refrain from using a laptop computer or other electronic devices during class unless approved by the instructor for class activities. **Non-participatory, disruptive behavior, or absences will negatively affect your participation grade.**

Korea Correspondent (15%)

The Korea correspondent session will be held on **Thursdays** (from Week 4 to Week 15 except on final presentation day) and this assignment has **two-part requirements:**

- **Correspondent (7%):** You need to sign up to be a correspondent of the week and lead class discussions on the day you signed-up. You only need to sign up once during the semester. The correspondent’s responsibilities are 1) to find a recent newspaper article

or a TV news clip related to the course topic(s) of the week, 2) develop **THREE** discussion questions based on the news and the course readings, 3) post the link of the article or media clip and the discussion questions on the designated folder on **Sakai Forums** by **Sunday night prior to the scheduled class** 4) submit your summary and analysis paper (*minimum two pages with references, 12 pt. font, Times New Roman*) of the news using course readings and other supplementary resources to Korea Correspondent folder on **Sakai Assignment by 9 a.m. on your scheduled day of class**, and 5) lead discussions during the class (5 mins). You are encouraged to prepare supplementary tools to facilitate discussions (e.g. mini-activities, handouts, or power points, etc).

- **Respondent (1 % x8= 8%)**: All students, except the correspondents of the week, need to read or watch the posted news and write responses to one of the discussion questions **per each posted news (min 100 words for each question)**. You need to submit **eight responses in total** throughout this semester. Submit your responses on **Sakai Assignment by 9 a.m. on scheduled Thursdays**. Your responses should be based on course readings and other reliable resources.

Tests (50%): Midterm (20%)+ Final (30 %)

A midterm and a final will be given this semester on scheduled dates. The tests will cover materials from class lectures, discussions, and assigned readings. The questions will be in the forms of multiple choices, short answers, and short/long essays.

Collaborative Research Project and Presentation (25%)

Students will be assigned to a group of three to four to research on a topic of their choice that is related to one of the topics that we discuss during the semester. The presentations are scheduled during **Week 14** of the semester. All requirements need to be submitted on Sakai Assignment section and the requirements are as follow:

- **Individual Submission (I)**: Submit one or two topics of interest on Sakai by **February 15**.
- **Group Submission (G)**: After groups are determined, submit a **ONE-page proposal** including a tentative topic, reason(s) for choosing the topic, and tentative contents of the research project on Sakai by **March 1**.
- **(G)**: A group research paper (12 pt. font, Times New Roman, 1 inch-margins) and presentation tool (i.e. power points, websites, etc) are due **11 p.m. on Sunday (April 8)** before the scheduled presentations. Please submit your group paper under file name, **Group#-Final Paper** and your presentation tools **Group#-Presentation** for power points and URL for websites or Youtube videos. Each group members are required to equally contribute to the group project and lack of contribution will negatively affect your individual grade.
- **(I)**: Students are required to preview all projects posted on Sakai before scheduled presentation days so that they can be prepared to actively participate during the class discussions scheduled on Week 14.
- **(G)**: The length of class presentation and discussion is limited to **Fifteen** minutes per group.
- **(I)**: Each student needs to individually submit **one-page reflection paper on Sakai** about

the collaborative project experience by **11 p.m. on April 12.**

- Collaborative project grade will be based on content, depth of research, quality of writing, effectiveness of the presentation, helpfulness to other students, contribution to the group and contribution to a deeper understanding of Korean society and education. The grade will be a combination of your individual and group grades.

Extra credits (Varies, maximum 2% of total grade)

You will be able to receive extra credits for attending an event related to Korean Studies scheduled outside of class time. For each event attended, you need to submit a reflection paper (**hard-copy only, minimum one page per event, 12-point font, double-spaced**). The events announced by the instructor are eligible for extra credits. Other events need to be pre-approved by the instructor. Extra credit points for each event may be varied and will be determined by the instructor. Extra credit points may vary by events (e.g. movie nights and cultural events: 0.2% per event, Seminars and lectures: 0.5 % per event). Students can submit their extra credit reflection papers any time during the semester, but the **final deadline is the last day of the class.**

CLASS POLICIES

- **Attendance Policy:** Regular class attendance is a student obligation, and a student is responsible for all the work, including tests and written work, of all class meetings. If a student misses **FOUR** consecutive class meetings, or misses more classes than the course instructor deems advisable, the course instructor may report the facts to the student's academic dean. University policy regarding attendance is available at http://www.unc.edu/ugradbulletin/procedures1.html#class_attendance
 - An absence will cost **1%** and partial attendance (that is arriving late or leaving early) will cost **0.5%** reduction from the participation grade (10% max)
- **Late submission Policy:** Grade for late papers or assignments will be subjected to **10 % reduction** for each passing day from the due date and will not be accepted after one week from the due date. Technology problems relating to your printer or computer will NOT be considered sufficient grounds for waiving this policy.
- **Make-up Policy:** Make-up tests will only be given under documented emergency or university approved reasons. ***In case a make-up test is granted, it must be done within a week from the original exam date and may subject to a grade/point deduction.***
 - Situations involving grave medical or other emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis.
- **Academic Procedures:** Students are expected to know and abide by the Academic Procedures published in the Undergraduate Bulletin. Details can be found at: <http://www.unc.edu/ugradbulletin/procedures1.html>
- **Accessibility Resources and Service:** The University is committed to an accessible environment. ARS works to identify and eliminate barriers that limit a student's ability independently to meet the numerous demands of University life. For details, see <https://accessibility.unc.edu/>

- **The Honor Code:** All students are expected to follow the guidelines of the UNC honor code, In particular, students are expected to refrain from "lying, cheating, or stealing" in the academic context. If you are unsure about which actions violate the honor code, please see me or consult http://www.unc.edu/ugradbulletin/stu_aff.html#Honor

****This syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester. Changes will be notified during the class and posted on Sakai.**

TOPICS AND COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TOPICS	READINGS/IMPORTANT DUE DATES	
		TUESDAY	THURSDAY
Week 1 (1/11)	Introduction		1st Day of Class Introduction
Week 2 (1/16, 18)	Modernity & Civil Society	Compressed Modernity and its Discontents: South Korean Society in Transition. (K-S. Chang)	From <i>minjung</i> to <i>simin</i> (N. Lee)
Week 3 (1/23, 25)	Modernity & Civil Society	The Cost of Living for a Family of Ŭngang Laborers. In Bruce and Ju-Chan Fultan, trans., <i>The Dwarf</i> (S. Choi) Internet Activism Transforming Street Politics: South Korea's 2008 'Mad Cow' Protests and New Democratic Sensibilities (J. Kang)	Class and Cosmopolitan Striving: Mothers' Management of English Education in South Korea (Park & Abelmann) Film: <i>Please Teach Me English</i> , dir. Kim Sung-su (2003)
Week 4 (1/30, 2/1)	Nationalism & Globalization	Mapping Out the Cultural Politics of the Korean Wave in Contemporary South Korea (K. Lee) Ethnic pride (G. Shin)	Between Nationalism and Globalization (G. Shin)
Week 5 (2/6, 8)	Nationalism & Globalization	Rethinking Belongingness in Korea (T. Lim) Between Defector and Migrant (B. Chung)	Strangers in the Midst of Globalization: Migrant Workers and Korean Nationalism (K. Moon)
Week 6 (2/13, 15)	Regionalism & Urbanization	Regionalism and National Networks (Y-H Kim) Economic Change and Regional Development Disparities (S. Lee)	Population Changes and Urbanization (K-C Ahn) CP Individual Topics of Interest Due
Week 7 (2/20, 22)	Class, Gender, & Sexuality	MIDTERM	The Korean Stratification System: Continuity and Change (H. Koo)

Week 8 (2/27,3/1)	Class, Gender, & Sexuality	Family, Gender, and Sexual Inequality (S-K Kim)	The Korean Gay and Lesbian Movement 1993-2008 (H-Y Kwon Kim & J. Cho) CP Group Proposal Due
Week 9 (3/6, 8)	Youth, Family & Education	The Korean Family in Transition (J. Finch & S-K. Kim)	Flexible Families and Fragile Marriages (C. Freeman)
Week 10	SPRING BREAK		
Week 11 (3/20, 22)	Youth, Family & Education	The Social Investment Family and Educational Politics (K. Chang)	Early Study Abroad: A Survey and Demographic Portrait (Ihm & Choi)
Week 12 (3/27, 29)	Youth, Family & Education	College rank and neo-liberal subjectivity in South Korea (Abelmann et al.)	South Korean Youth Across Three Decades (H. Cho & J. Stark)
Week 13 (4/3, 5)	Culture of Consumption	The “Kimchi Wars” in Globalizing East Asia (K. Han)	From Strange Bitter Concoction to Romantic Necessity (S. Bak) CP Group Paper and Presentation Materials Due @11 p.m. on April 8
Week 14 (4/10, 12)		CP PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS	CP PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS CP Reflection Paper (1 page) Due @11 p.m.
Week 15 (4/17, 19)	Culture of Consumption	Kugak Fusion and the Politics of Korean Musical Consumption. (K. Howard)	K-Pop Music and Transnationalism (M. Fuhr)
Week 16 (4/24, 26)		The Korean Wave: Korean Popular Culture in a Digital Cosmopolitan World (Y. Kim)	Last Day of Class Extra Credit Reports Due
FINAL EXAM: Monday, May 7 (12-3p.m.)			