

The Two Koreas and Geopolitics of Northeast Asia

GOV 2550/ASNS 2872 – Spring 2018
Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00-11:25
Sills Smith Auditorium

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Office Hours: (Hubbard 207)
Mon/Wed 1:00-3:00 PM
or by appointment

This course will examine the tumultuous developments on the Korean peninsula over the past century and their significance from historical, security, economic and geopolitical perspectives. The challenges and choices facing the Korean people, their governments, neighboring countries and the United States will be assessed to understand how conditions have evolved to the high stakes tensions that exist today and what forces are shaping the future of both Koreas and Northeast Asia.

The course also provides insights into the conduct of high profile and complex diplomacy and the practical challenges diplomats and policy makers face in confronting security threats which if mishandled can lead to enormous humanitarian and economic damage.

Expectations

The course does not require prior knowledge of the Koreas or Northeast Asia. It does expect diligent attention to assigned readings, following daily developments in the news media, willingness to explore additional resources made available in the library and blackboard, and active participation in class discussion.

Requirements and Grading

A series of three short 3-4 page papers written from an applied policy analysis perspective. 35%

A mid-term exam on the historically oriented part of the course prior to 1990. 25%

Final project focused one or more aspects of the present challenges on the Korean peninsula and exploration of issues that are salient for the future of the two Koreas. 25%

In-class participation. 15%

Readings and Resources

There are two required books for the course. They are available for purchase in the bookstore and are on 2-hour reserve in the H-L library.

Bruce Cummings, *Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History*, (New York: W.W. Norton 2005)

Don Oberdorfer and Robert Carlin, *The Two Koreas: A Contemporary History, Third Edition*. (New York: Basic Books 2014)

Other reading materials and will be drawn from a variety of sources and will be available on the library services guide (LG) for this course at <http://libguides.bowdoin.edu/spring2018-gov2550> or the blackboard (BB). Links to websites that provide news and up-to-date expert analysis of new developments will be available in the library guide. Please follow the daily news on developments on the two Koreas by reading the international sections of the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal or BBC in addition to the news summaries available through the library guide. Assigned readings are to be completed in advance of the class. Also posted in the library guide will be a collection of resource materials to aid in research for assigned papers and projects and in-depth exploration of issues of interest. Barbara Levergood in the library will be available to help access resources in the library guide.

Course Outline

Monday January 22	Introduction to course, overview of the two Koreas, and my story of involvement. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No assigned reading
Wednesday January 24	Where are we today and issues for 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current news, explore websites posted in LG• Kim Jong Un's New Year's Address (BB)• Mansfield Foundation: <i>Navigating Uncertainties on the Korean Peninsula: In Search of a Roadmap</i>. (LG)
Monday January 29	Korean History And Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cummings, Preface and Chapter 1 –The Virtues.• Hazel Smith, National Identity, pgs. 44-66 (BB)
Wednesday January 31	Korean Opening to the West <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cummings, Chapter 2 – The Interests, 1860-1904

Monday February 5	<p>Japanese Colonialism and World War 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cummings, Chapter 3 – The Eclipse 1905-1946 • Hazel Smith, Colonial Occupation and the Rise of Kim IL Sung, pgs. 69-90 (BB) • First paper due.
Wednesday February 7	<p>Korean War – How it started</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cummings, Chapter 4 – The Passions. • Halberstam, The Coldest Winter, Part 2 – pgs. 47-101 (BB)
Monday February 12	<p>Korean War – Entry of China and How it Ended</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cummings, Chapter 5 – Collision 1948-1953 • Halberstam, Pgs. 624-647 (BB)
Wednesday February 14	<p>The Armistice and Dilemmas for the Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Hoare, <i>The Korean Armistice of 1953 and Its Consequences</i> (LG) • Patrick Norton, <i>Ending the Korean Armistice Agreement: The legal Issues</i> (LG)
Monday February 19	<p>South Korea's economic story 1953-1990's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cummings, Chapter 6 – Industrialization • Second paper due.
Wednesday February 21	<p>South Korea's political story 1960-1990's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cummings Chapter 7 – Democratic Movement
Monday February 26	<p>North Korea's political and economic story 1953-1990's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cummings, Chapter 8 – Nation of the Sun King • Hazel Smith, 'Socialism in our own style' pgs.110-135
Wednesday February 28	<p>Discussion of themes of Korean history and geopolitical influences before 1990.</p>
Monday March 5	<p>Mid-Term Exam</p>
Wednesday March 7	<p>Guest Speaker: Keith Luse, Executive Director, National Committee for North Korea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore NCNK Website
Monday March 26	<p>Dramatic developments of the 1990's – Political Shifts, Nuclear Confrontation, and Leadership Transitions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oberdorfer, pgs.154-288

Wednesday March 28	<p>Economic collapse, famine and opening to the international community 1994-2000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oberdorfer, pgs. 289-318 • Flake and Snyder, pgs. 1-46 (BB)
Monday April 2	<p>Engagement on Nuclear and Missile Programs: Agreed Framework and Six party Talks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obderdorfer, pgs. 319-418
Wednesday April 4	<p>Inter-Korean Relations – Sunshine Policy and Conservatism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chung-in Moon, <i>Understanding the Sunshine Policy: Ideals, Principles and Rationales</i> (BB) • Oberdorfer, pgs. 419-452
Monday April 9	<p>North Korean economy 1998 – present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babson, <i>North Korean Economic System: Challenges and Issues</i> (LG) • In Ho Park, <i>The Creation of the North Korean Market System</i>, (LG) • Lee Geun Young, <i>Kim Jong Un's economic plans: realistic or not?</i> (BB) • Third paper due.
Wednesday April 11	<p>Human rights and defectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Demick, <i>Nothing to Envy</i>, two stories. (BB) • Wikipedia, <i>Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea</i>, (BB) • Explore website of Committee on Human Rights for North Korea (LG)
Monday April 16	<p>Dynamics of social and political change in North Korea under Kim Jong Un</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ken Gause, <i>The Role and Influence of the Party</i> (BB) • Terence Roehrig, <i>The Roles and Influence of the Military</i> (BB) • Bruce Cummings, <i>The Kim's Three Bodies: Toward Understanding Dynastic Succession in North Korea</i>, (BB) • Scott Snyder and Kyung-Ae Park, <i>North Korea in Transition: Evolution or Revolution?</i> (BB) • Final project proposal due.

Wednesday April 18	<p>Dynamics of social, economic and political change in South Korea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGI 17, <i>South Korea Social Policies</i>, (BB) • Ramstad, <i>Five Economic Questions South Koreans Should Ask Their Presidential Candidates and Themselves</i>, (BB) • Kai, <i>Why Are South Korean Politics so Messy?</i> (BB) • Scott Snyder, <i>South Korea at the Crossroads</i>, pgs. 1-19 and 192-211. (BB)
Monday April 23	<p>Drama of 2016 and 2017 and escalation of tensions: sanctions and engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selectively review articles from press, 38 North and other blogs (LG) • TBD
Wednesday April 25	<p>Role of the UN on the Korean Peninsula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
Monday April 30	<p>China and the future of the two Koreas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babson, <i>Sanctioning North Korea: Beijing's Role in Ensuring Economic Stability</i> (BB) • Wang Dong and Sun Bingyan, <i>The view from China on Triangular Relations</i>, (BB) • Kim Heung-kyu, <i>A View from South Korea on Sino-ROK Relations</i>, (BB) • Miller, <i>The Chinese Dream in Peril: Xi Jinping and the Korean Crisis</i>, (BB)
Wednesday May 2	<p>Russia and Japan and the future of the two Koreas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexander Gabuev, <i>A Russian Perspective on the Impact of Sanctions</i>, (BB) • Georgy Tolaraya, <i>How Russia Can Help the United States Defuse the Korean Crisis</i>, (BB) • Babson, <i>A 'Pipedream?' Russia, North and South Korea's Pipeline Quest</i>, (BB) • Ramani, <i>Russia, Japan and North Korea's Nuclear Test</i>, (BB) • Snyder and Glosserman, <i>Japan-South Korean Relations in 2016: A Return to the Old Normal</i> (BB) • Blomquist and Wertz, <i>An Overview of Japan-North Korean Relations</i> (BB) • Isozaki, <i>Time for a Japanese Rethink on North Korea?</i> (BB)

Monday May 7	<p>Assessment of future US policy options for the two Koreas and geopolitical implications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class exercise
Wednesday May 9	<p>End Game scenarios and geopolitical issues: unification, two state confederation, absorption, muddling along.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class exercise
Wednesday May 16	Final project due.

January 16, 2018