

The Two Koreas and Geopolitics of Northeast Asia

GOV 2550/ASNS 2872 – Spring 2019

Mondays and Wednesdays 10:05-11:30

Classroom: Searles 215

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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. 30%

Participation in and out of class. 10%

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/spring2019-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

Wednesday January 23 Introduction to course, overview of the two Koreas, and my story of involvement.

- No assigned reading

Monday January 28 Where are we today and issues for 2019

- Current news, explore websites posted in LG
- Kim Jong Un's New Year's Address (BB)
- Rudiger Frank, *The North Korean Summits: Lessons Learned and the Road Ahead*. (BB)
- Time Magazine, 'I Just Don't Think Its' the Right Approach'. Ambassador Christopher Hill on Why North Korea May Be Taking the U.S. for a Ride. (BB)
- Georgi Toloraya, *From CVID to CRID: A Russian Perspective*. (BB)
- Strategic Multilayer Assessment of Strategic Outcomes in the Korean Peninsula: Korea Strategic Outcomes: Key Findings (BB)

Wednesday January 30	<p>Korean History and Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cummings, Preface and Chapter 1 –The Virtues. • Hazel Smith, National Identity, pgs. 44-66 (BB)
Monday February 4	<p>Korean Opening to the West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cummings, Chapter 2 – The Interests, 1860-1904 • First paper due by 9 PM
Wednesday February 6	<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)
Monday February 11	<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)
Wednesday February 13	<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)
Monday February 18	<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> (BB) • Patrick Norton, <i>Ending the Korean Armistice Agreement: The legal Issues</i> (BB) • Henri Feron, <i>Peace with Pyongyang: Legal Implications for the United States and South Korea</i> (BB)
Wednesday February 20	<p>South Korea’s economic story 1953-1990’s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cummings, Chapter 6 – Industrialization • Second paper due by 9 PM.
Monday February 25	<p>South Korea’s political story 1960-1990’s</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cummings Chapter 7 – Democratic Movement
Wednesday February 27	<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

Monday March 4	Discussion of themes of Korean history and geopolitical influences before 1990.
Wednesday March 6	Mid-Term Exam
Monday March 25	Dramatic developments of the 1990's – Political Shifts, Nuclear Confrontation, and Leadership Transitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oberdorfer, pgs.154-288
Wednesday March 27	Economic collapse, famine and opening to the international community 1994-2002. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oberdorfer, pgs. 289-318 • Yoon and Babson, <i>Understanding North Korea's Economic Crisis</i>, (BB) • Andrew Natsios, USIP, <i>Politics of Famine in North Korea</i>, (BB) • Flake and Snyder, Paved with Good Intentions, pgs. 1-46 (BB) • Barbara Demick, Nothing to Envy, Chapter 11, pgs. 139-143 (BB) • NCNK, <i>Chart on Humanitarian Aid to North Korea</i>, (BB)
Monday April 1	Engagement on Nuclear and Missile Programs: Collapse of Agreed Framework, Six party Talks, and Leap Day Agreement. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oberdorfer, pgs. 319-418 • Babson, <i>Speech to KEDO</i> (BB) • Six Party Talks Joint Statement, (BB)
Wednesday April 3	South Korean Democracy 1998 – 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snyder, South Korea at a Crossroads, pgs. 83-169 (BB) • Snyder Scott, <i>South Korean Identity under Park Geun-hye: Crosscurrents and Choppy Waters</i> (BB) • BBC. Moon Jae-in: South Korea's President with Humble Roots (BB) • Oberdorfer, pgs. 419-452
Monday April 8	Evolution of North Korean Economy After 1998 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babson, <i>North Korean Economic System: Challenges and Issues</i> (BB) • NSI, <i>Marketization of the North Korean Economy</i>, pages 1-9 (BB)

- William Brown, NCNK Special Report: *North Korea's Shackled Economy (2018)* (BB)
- Babson, *North Korean Economy (2018)* (BB)
- **Final Project Proposal Due by 9 PM.**

Wednesday April 10

Human Rights and Defectors

- Barbara Demick, *Nothing to Envy*, Chapters 1 and 11-12, pgs. 3-17 and 160-184. (BB)
- Cheri Yang, *Why I Escaped from North Korea*. (BB)
- Wikipedia, *Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*, (BB)
- UN Human Rights Council, *Current Situation on Human Rights in DPRK*, (BB).
- Human Rights Watch Report on Sexual Violence. (BB)
- Wikipedia, *North Korean Defectors*, (BB)

Monday April 15

Dynamics of social and political change in North Korea under Kim Jong Un

- North Korea Leadership Watch, *Kim Jong Un*, (BB)
- Scott Snyder and Kyung-Ae Park, *North Korea in Transition: Evolution or Revolution?* (BB)
- Ruediger Frank, 38 North, *The 7th Party Congress in North Korea: A Return to a New Normal*, (BB)
- Seung-Yoel Lee, Asian Perspective, *Political Transition in the Kim Jong Un Era: Elites Policy Choices*, (BB)
- Global Security, *Byungjin Policy (Parallel Development)*. (BB)

Wednesday April 17

Dynamics of social, economic and political change in South Korea

- Sustainable Governance Indicators 2018, South Korea (BB)
- Leipziger, Dahlman and Yusef, KEI, *Economic Challenges for Korea: Mega-Trends and Scenario Analyses*, (BB)
- Korea Times, IMF Warns of Headwinds to Korean Economy (BB)
- Kai, *Why Are South Korean Politics so Messy?* (BB)
- Scott Snyder, *South Korea at the Crossroads*, pgs. 1-19 and 192-211. (BB)

Monday April 22	<p>Sanctions on North Korea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albert, Council on Foreign Relations, <i>What to Know About Sanctions on North Korea</i>, (BB) • UN Panel of Experts Report Summary 2019 (BB) • Babson, <i>China's Role in Balancing Economic Stability and Change</i>. (BB) • Hewitt, 38 North, <i>Rethinking North Korean Sanctions: Lessons and Strategies for Long-Term Planning</i>, (BB) • Noland, <i>North Korea: Sanctions, Engagement and Strategic Reorientation</i>. (BB)
Wednesday April 24	<p>International Organizations and North Korea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCNK website, Membership in International Organizations • UN Strategic Framework 2017-2021 (BB) • UN Humanitarian Appeal 2018. (BB)) • South China Morning Post, <i>IMF and other global Banks are Ready to work with North Korea, if it works with them</i>. (BB)
Monday April 29	<p>Where Korean Diplomacy Stands Today and Issues for the Future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
Wednesday May 1	Student Project Presentations
Monday May 6	Student Project Presentations
Wednesday May 8	Student Project Presentations, Reflections and Final Comments.
Friday May 10	Final Projects Due