



Syllabus (2021–Summer)

Course Title	North Korea: history, politics and society	Course No.	4
Department/ Major		Credit/Hours	3 credits / 45 Hours
Class Time/ Classroom	Mon to Thurs		
Instructor	Name: Antonio Fiori	Department: Dept. Political and Social Sciences (University of Bologna, Italy)	
	E-mail: antonio.fiori@unibo.it	Phone +82	
Office Hours/ Office Location			

I . Course Overview

1. Course Description

This course is designed to provide an introduction to North Korea. More specifically, starting from the analysis of the country's history, we will look into the political foundations of the regime, its ideological precepts, the problem of economic sustainability and reforms, its foreign policy and relations, and the nuclear issue. We will also try to understand how the regime works, by looking at the organization of its political system and, above all, to the characters who populate it. We will also devote our attention to the North Korean society, analyzing the population's relationship with the regime and, more in general, how people live in the DPRK.

2. Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites to attend this course apart from your genuine interest in knowing more about North Korea.



3. Course Format

Lecture	Discussion/Presentation	Experiment/Practicum	Field Study	Other
70%	30%	%		%

(Instructor can change to match the actual format of the class.)

Explanation of course format:

Every day the instructor will lecture on a single topic, always leaving the possibility to students to intervene, asking questions or making comments. Students will be also asked to work among them (in groups) to prepare a brief presentation on a topic to be decided with the instructor.

4. Course Objectives

The main objective of this course is to make students familiar with North Korea's political, economic and social issues and to make them understand the main relational problems between DPRK and the international community.

5. Evaluation System

Relative evaluation Absolute evaluation (for Ewha International Summer College students only) Others :

- Explanation of evaluation system:

Midterm Exam	Final Exam	Quizzes	Presentation	Projects	Assignments	Participation	Other
0%	40%	%	10%	%	20%	30%	%

* Evaluation of group projects may include peer evaluations.

II. Course Materials and Additional Readings

1. Required Materials

Class materials will be provided by the instructor. Students will be asked to read the material before taking each class.



2. Supplementary Materials

Each presentation's power point will be provided to students.

3. Optional Additional Readings

III. Course Policies

* For laboratory courses, all students are required to complete lab safety training.

IV. Course Schedule (3 hours each class)

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 1	(6/29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline and aims of the course. General Introduction to North Korea.
Day 2	(6/30)	<p>Introduction to the North Korean Political and Economic System.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrick McEachern, <i>Inside the Red Box: North Korea's Post-Totalitarian Politics</i> (New York: Columbia Un. Press, 2010), ch. 2; Adrian Buzo, <i>The Guerrilla Dynasty</i> (Boulder: Westview Press, 1999), ch. 1, 2.
Day 3	(7/1)	<p>The formation of the nation and the process of political consolidation (1945–1970).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charles Armstrong, "The Nature, Origins, and Development of the North Korean State," in Samuel Kim (ed.), <i>The North Korean System in the Past-Cold War Era</i>, (New York, NY: Palgrave, 2001); Andrei Lankov, "Kim Takes Control: The Great Purge in North Korea, 1956–1960," <i>Korean Studies</i>, Vol. 26, No. 1, 2002, pp. 87–119; Mitchell Lerner, "<i>Mostly Propaganda in Nature</i>": <i>Kim Il Sung, the Juche Ideology, and the Second Korean War</i> (Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Int.l Center for Scholars, Working Paper no. 3, December 2010).
Day 4	(7/5)	<p>Political Transition and Crisis (1980s–1990s).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jae-chon Lim, <i>Kim Jong Il's Leadership of North Korea</i> (London and New York: Routledge, 2009), ch. 4, 5; Chong-sik Lee, "The Evolution of the Korean Worker's Party and the Rise of Kim Jong Il," <i>Asian Survey</i>, Vol. 22, No. 5, 1982, pp. 434–448; Sergey Radhenko, "North Korea and the End of the Cold War, 1985–1991," in Robert Wampler (ed.), <i>Trilateralism and Beyond: Great Power Politics and the Korean Security Dilemma During and After the Cold War</i> (Kent: The Kent State University Press, 2011), pp. 189–212.
Day 5	(7/6)	<p>Economic Setbacks (1980s–1990s). The Famine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marcus Noland, "Economic Implications of North Korean Nuclear Breakout," <i>North Korean Review</i>, Vol. 3, No. 1, 2007, pp. 56–68;



Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 6	(7/7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> William Moon, "The Origins of the Great North Korean Famine: Its Dynamics and Normative Implications," <i>North Korean Review</i>, Vol. 5, No. 1, 2009, pp. 105–122; Suk-jin Kim and Moon-soo Yang, <i>The Growth of the Informal Economy in North Korea</i> (Seoul: Korea Institute for National Reunification, 2015). <p>Songun (Military-first Politics). Regime-Armed Forces Relations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrick McEachern, <i>Inside the Red Box: North Korea's Post-Totalitarian Politics</i> (New York: Columbia Un. Press, 2010), ch. 5, 6, 7; Young Chul Chung, "The Suryong System as the Institution of Collectivist Development," <i>Journal of Korean Studies</i>, Vol. 12, No. 1, 2007, pp. 43–73; Alexander Mansourov, "Disaster Management and Institutional Change in the DPRK: Trends in the Songun Era," KEI Academic Paper Series, Vol. 2, No. 9, 2009, pp. 1–21.
		<p>Economic Reforms and Marketization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrei Lankov, "Low-Profile Capitalism: The Emergence of the New Merchant/Entrepreneurial Class in Post-Famine North Korea," in Kyung-ae Park and Scott Snyder (eds.), <i>North Korea in Transition: Politics, Economy, and Society</i> (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2013), pp. 179–194; Jae Cheon Lim and Injoo Yoon, "Institutional Entrepreneurs in North Korea: Emerging Shadowy Private Enterprises under Dire Economic Conditions," <i>North Korean Review</i>, Vol. 7, No. 2, 2011, pp. 82–93; Andrei Lankov, <i>The Resurgence of a Market Economy in North Korea</i> (Moscow, Carnegie Moscow Center, 2016); Sungmin Cho, "Why North Korea Could Not Implement the Chinese Style Reform and Opening? The Internal Contradiction Between Economic Reform and Political Stability," <i>Journal of Asian Security and Int.l Affairs</i>, Vol. 7, No. 3, 2020, pp. 305–324.
Day 8	(7/12)	<p>Inter-Korean Political and Economic Relations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jin-Wook Shin, "Lessons from German Unification for Inter-Korean Relations: An Analysis of South Korean Public Spheres, 1990–2010," <i>Asian Perspective</i>, Vol. 38, No. 2, pp. 61–88; Richard Tait, "Playing by the Rules in Korea: Lessons Learned in North-South Economic Engagement," <i>Asian Survey</i>, Vol. 43, No. 2, 2003, pp. 305–328; Sung Chull Kim and David C. Kang, <i>Engagement with North Korea. A Viable Alternative</i> (New York: SUNY Press, 2009), ch. Introduction.
Day 9	(7/13)	<p>The second succession: Kim Jong Un.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yong Soo Park, "Policies and Ideologies of the Kim Jong Un Regime in North Korea: Theoretical Implications," <i>Asian Studies Review</i>, Vol. 38, No. 1, 2014, pp. 1–14; Ken Gause, "The Role and Influence of the Party Apparatus," in Kyung-ae Park and Scott Snyder (eds.), <i>North Korea in Transition: Politics, Economy, and Society</i> (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2013), pp. 19–48; Seung Yeol Lee, <i>North Korea's Third Hereditary Succession</i> (Stockholm: ISDP, 2011); Jea Hwan Hong, <i>North Korean Economy in the Kim Jong-un Regime</i> (Seoul:



Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
		Korea Institute for National Reunification, 2018).
Day 10	(7/14)	<p>The China factor: political and economic interactions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaewoo Choo, "Mirroring North Korea's Growing Economic Dependence on China: Political Ramifications," <i>Asian Survey</i>, Vol. 48, No. 2, 2008, pp. 343–372; • Jae Chol Kim, "The Political Economy of Chinese Investment in North Korea," <i>Asian Survey</i>, Vol. 46, No. 6, 2006, pp. 898–916; • Ming Liu, "Changes and Continuities in Pyongyang's China Policy," in Kyung-ae Park and Scott Snyder (eds.), <i>North Korea in Transition: Politics, Economy, and Society</i> (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2013), pp. 211–238.
Day 11	(7/15)	<p>North Korea's Nuclear Ambitions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walter C. Clemens, "North Korea's Quest for Nuclear Weapons," <i>Journal of East Asian Studies</i>, Vol. 10, No. 1, 2010, pp. 127–154; • Kang Choi, "The North Korean Nuclear Problem: 20 Years of Crisis," <i>Asia Policy</i>, No. 19, 2015, pp. 28–36; • Er-Win Tan, "<i>Byungjin</i> and the Sources of Pyongyang's Paranoia," <i>International Journal of Korean Unification Studies</i>, Vol. 28, No. 2, 2019, pp. 97–128; • Woosik Cheong, "How Can We Solve the North Korean Nuclear Issue?" in Peter Hayes and Chung-in Moon (eds.), <i>Denuclearization and Peace on the Korean Peninsula</i> (Seoul: Yonsei University Press, 2015), ch. 8.
Day 12	(7/19)	<p>North Korea's Society</p> <p>Video on how North Koreans live and discussion (domestic societal organization, etc.).</p>
Day 13	(7/20)	<p>North Korean Defectors in South Korea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tatiana Gabroussenko, "From Developmentalist to Conservationist Criticism: The New Narrative of South Korea in North Korean Propaganda," <i>Journal of Korean Studies</i>, Vol. 16, No. 1, 2011, pp. 27–61; • Bo-Hyuk Suh, "Controversies over North Korean Human Rights in South Korean Society," <i>Asian Perspective</i>, Vol. 31, No. 2, 2007, pp. 23–46; • Eric Bidet, "Social Capital and Work Integration of Migrants: The Case of North Korean Defectors in South Korea," <i>Asian Perspective</i>, Vol. 33, No. 2, 2009, pp. 151–179.
Day 14	(7/21)	<p>Engaging or Containing North Korea: Scenarios, Solutions, Strategies.</p> <p>Discussion</p>
Day 15	(7/22)	<p>Will North Korea Collapse?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce W. Bennett and Jennifer Lind, "The Collapse of North Korea: Military Missions and Requirements," <i>International Security</i>, Vol. 36, No. 2, 2011, pp. 84–119; • Bruce W. Bennett, <i>Preparing for the Possibility of a North Korean Collapse</i> (Washington, D.C.: RAND Corporation, 2013).
Makeup Classes 1	(mm/dd)	
Makeup Classes	(mm/dd)	



Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
2		

V. Special Accommodations

* According to the University regulation section #57-3, students with disabilities can request for special accommodations related to attendance, lectures, assignments, or tests by contacting the course professor at the beginning of semester. Based on the nature of the students' request, students can receive support for such accommodations from the course professor or from the Support Center for Students with Disabilities (SCSD). Please refer to the below examples of the types of support available in the lectures, assignments, and evaluations.

Lecture	Assignments	Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Visual impairment : braille, enlarged reading materials · Hearing impairment : note-taking assistant · Physical impairment : access to classroom, note-taking assistant 	<p>Extra days for submission, alternative assignments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Visual impairment : braille examination paper, examination with voice support, longer examination hours, note-taking assistant · Hearing impairment : written examination instead of oral · Physical impairment : longer examination hours, note-taking assistant

- Actual support may vary depending on the course.

* The contents of this syllabus are not final—they may be updated.