This course inquires into North Korea’s past and current relationship with the neighboring countries including China, Russia, Japan, the U.S. and South Korea, while paying additional attention to some of the prominent issues associated with North Korea such as the development of WMD, refugees, and transnational crimes. It reviews diverse scholastic approaches to explaining and understanding the international politics surrounding North Korea. No prior knowledge in the field of North Korean studies or political science is required, though any of it would help students better grasp the contents of the materials covered in the course.

The requirements of the course are a final exam, a 5-6 page paper, presentations, and participation in the class discussion. The paper is expected to identify the key questions for the subject of the week that a student freely chooses, to show how the reading materials answer those questions, and to outline her own view on the questions as well as the readings. The guideline for drawing the final course grade is as follows: 50% for the final exam, 20% for a paper, and 20% for presentations, 10% for class participation. But I reserve the right to make adjustments to the grade weightings if necessary.

The following schedule is a guideline to help you plan your reading. The planned reading schedule may be modified as the course proceeds, and extra materials will be introduced during class if needed. You should complete the required readings before class in order to be prepared for the discussion.

Primary Literature:


**Class Schedule**
(Required reading is marked with asterisk)

I. Introduction

**Class 1: Course Description and Class Organization**

*Smith, *North Korea*, Ch. 1 (pp. 19-43).

II. North Korea: Past and Present

**Class 2: Making of North Korea**


*Smith, *North Korea*, Ch. 3 (pp. 69-90).


**Class 3: North Korean Ideology and Politics**

*Charles Armstrong, “The Role and Influence of Ideology,” in Park & Snyder, eds., *North Korea in Transition*.


Class 4: North Korean Economy and Society


Andrew S. Natsios, “North Korea’s Chronic Food Problem,” in Choe, Shin & Straub, eds., *Troubled Transition*.


III. Politics of Northeast Asia

Class 5: Power Shift in Northeast Asia


Class 6: Regionalism and Nationalism in Northeast Asia


Class 7: North Korea in the Region: Outlines


IV. North Korea’s Relationship with Neighboring Countries

Class 8: North Korea and the United States

*Quinones & Tragert, The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Understanding North Korea, Ch. 18.


Class 9: North Korea and China

*Quinones & Tragert, The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Understanding North Korea (Indianapolis: Alpha, 2003), Ch. 15.
*Liu Ming, “Changes and Continuities in Pyongyang's China Policy, in Park & Snyder, eds., *North Korea in Transition.*


**Class 10: North Korea’s Relationship with Russia, Japan and Europe**


**Class 11: North Korea and South Korea**


V. Current Issues on North Korea

**Class 12: Weapons of Mass Destruction**


Woosik Cheong, “How can we solve the North Korean Nuclear Issue?” in Peter Hayes and Chung-in Moon, eds., *Denuclearization and Peace on the Korean Peninsula* (Seoul: Yonsei University Press, 2015), Ch. 8 (pp. 156-185).


**Class 13: Weapons of Mass Destruction (Continued)**


Katsuhisa Furukawa & Hajime Izumi, “Japan’s Responses to North Korea’s Nuclear and Missile Tests,” in Moore, ed., *North Korean Nuclear Operationality*.


**Class 14: Human Rights and Refugee**

*Hassig & Oh, *The Hidden People of North Korea*, Chs. 7 & 8 (pp. 139-157 & 159-181).


Class 15: Final Exam