

# Syllabus (2025-Summer)

Course Title	North Korea: Between Continuity and Change	Course No.	
Credit	3 credits	Hours	45 Hours
Class Time Classroom	Mon to Thr Classroom TBA		
Instructor	Name: Hwajung Kim	Department: Graduate School of International Studies	
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Office Hours Office Location	by appointment (International Education Building #1104)		

## I. Course Overview

### 1. Course Description

This course aims to enhance students' overall understanding of contemporary North Korea by exploring the country through various perspectives: the political structure, the economic system, foreign relations, society, and culture. North Korea, regardless of preconceived images as a rogue state or impossible state, has sustained its sovereign state status for over 70 years. What makes its overhaul and survival possible while other socialists collapse? This course will provide students with a close investigation of the existing system of contemporary North Korea and further understandings of the geopolitics in the Northeast region.

### 2. Prerequisites

No background needed

### 3. Course Format

Lecture	Discussion/Presentation	Assignments	Activities	Other
70%	15%	10%	5%	-

### 4. Course Objectives

### 5. Evaluation Systems

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

Midterm Exam	Final Exam	Quizzes	Presentation	Projects	Assignments	Participation	Others
30%	30%	-	10%	-	10%	20%	-

## II. Course Materials and Additional Readings

### 1. Required Materials

Buzo, Adrian, ed. 2021. *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary North Korea*. New York: Routledge.

### 2. Supplementary Materials

### 3. Optional Additional Readings

## III. Course Schedule

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 1	(6/30)	<b>Introduction of the Course: Contemporary North Korea</b> General Introductions: 1) why focus on contemporary North Korea, 2) expectations and responsibilities, 3) class design, 4) student obligations ※ Assignment (at home): make a self-introduction slide
Day 2	(7/1)	<b>The Foundation and Development of North Korea</b> Topics: 1) political system, 2) Great Leader Kim Il-sung, 3) Dear Leader Kim Jung-il
Day 3	(7/2)	<b>North Korean Leaders</b> Topics: 1) political ideology, 2) the deification of leaders
Day 4	(7/3)	<b>The MZ Generation in North Korea</b> Watch a documentary film (The <i>Jangmadang</i> Generation) and discuss
Day 5	(7/7)	<b>The Transformation of North Korean Economy</b> Topics: 1) economic planning system, 2) structural transformation
Day 6	(7/8)	<b>State Survival or Cooperation?</b> Topics: 1) globalization, 2) liberal economy, 3) state survival
Day 7	(7/9)	<b>Midterm Presentation</b> <b>What Affects Contemporary North Korea?</b>
Day 8	(7/10)	<b>Stakeholders in the Peace Process on the Korean Peninsula</b> Watch DW Documentary and discuss
Day 9	(7/14)	<b>North Korea's Nuclear Diplomacy</b> Topics: 1) North Korean foreign policy, 2) nuclear weapons
Day 10	(7/15)	<b>Sino-North Korean Relations</b> Topics: 1) authoritarian regimes, 2) the influence of China
Day 11	(7/16)	<b>Russia-North Korea Relations</b> Topics: 1) diplomatic ties, 2) the socialist block
Day 12	(7/17)	<b>Human Right Violations</b> Watch movie (A State of Mind) and discuss
Day 13	(7/21)	<b>Cultural Policy and Practice</b> Topics: 1) politicization of culture, 2) cultural products, 3) cultural actors
Day 14	(7/22)	<b>North Korea's Popular Culture</b> Topics: 1) the influence of South Korea's cultural wave, 2) capitalist culture
Day 15	(7/23)	<b>Final Presentation &amp; Feedback</b>
Makeup Classes 1	(mm/dd)	
Makeup Classes 2	(mm/dd)	

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

-Actual support may vary depending on the course.

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