



Syllabus (Summer, 2024)

Course Title	North Korea: Between Continuity and Change	Course No.	
Department/ Major	2024 Ewha International Summer College	Credit/Hours	3 credits/45 hrs.
Class Time/ Classroom	TBC		
Instructor	Name: Hwajung Kim		
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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

Those who are currently registered as students at Ewha International Summer College

3. Course Format

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

4. Course Objectives

Same as course description

5. Evaluation System

Midterm	Final	Assignments	Participation	Other
30%	30%	20%	20%	-

Absolute evaluation for Ewha International Summer College students only

II. Course Materials and Additional Readings

Required Materials

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

Supporting materials and necessary articles will be uploaded onto Cyber Campus.

III. Course Policies

Five or more absences will be automatically marked F (a failing grade).

IV. Course Schedule (Schedule is subject to change according to students' preferences.)

Week	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Class 1	2024/7/1 (Mon)	Introduction of the Course: Contemporary North Korea 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
Class 2	2024/7/2 (Tue)	The Foundation and Development of North Korea Topics: 1) political system, 2) Great Leader Kim Il-sung, 3) Dear Leader Kim Jung-il ※ Read: Chapter 2. The Evolution of the North Korean Socio-Political System, 1945-1994
Class 3	2024/7/3 (Wed)	North Korean Leaders Topics: 1) political ideology, 2) the deification of leaders ※ Read: Chapter 4. Political economy and ideology under Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un
Class 4	2024/7/4 (Thurs)	The MZ Generation in North Korea Watch documentary film (The <i>Jangmadang</i> Generation) and discuss ※ Assignment (in-class): raise critical questions
Class 5	2024/7/8 (Mon)	The Transformation of North Korean Economy Topics: 1) economic planning system, 2) structural transformation ※ Read: Chapter 6. Between the Markets and the State: North's Fragile Agriculture and Food Supply
Class 6	2024/7/9 (Tue)	State Survival or Cooperation Topics: 1) globalization, 2) liberal economy, 3) state survival ※ Read: Chapter 7. North Korea's Interaction with the Global Economy
Class 7	2024/7/10 (Wed)	Midterm Presentation What Affects Contemporary North Korea?
Class 8	2024/7/11 (Thurs)	Stakeholders in the Peace Process of the Korean Peninsula Watch movie (The Interview) and discuss ※ Assignment (in-class): raise critical questions
Class 9	2024/7/15 (Mon)	North Korea's Nuclear Diplomacy Topics: 1) North Korean foreign policy, 2) nuclear weapons ※ Read: Chapter 10. North Korea's Nuclear Diplomacy



Week	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Class 10	2024/7/16 (Tue)	Sino-North Korean Relations Topics: 1) authoritarian regimes, 2) the influence of China ※ Read: Chapter 8. 'The Enemies Made This Possible': Sino-North Korean Relations after 1948
Class 11	2024/7/17 (Wed)	Russia-North Korea Relations Topics: 1) diplomatic ties, 2) the socialist block ※ Read: Chapter 11. Revival of an Old Friendship: Contemporary North Korea-Russia Relations
Class 12	2024/7/18 (Thurs)	Human Right Violations Watch <i>Arirang</i> Mass Games and discuss ※ Assignment (in-class): raise critical questions
Class 13	2024/7/22 (Mon)	Cultural Policy and Practice Topics: 1) politicization of culture, 2) cultural products, 3) cultural actors ※ Read: Chapter 19. Mass culture in the Kim Jong-un Era: Continuities and Changes
Class 14	2024/7/23 (Tue)	North Korea's Popular Culture Topics: 1) the influence of South Korea's cultural wave, 2) capitalist culture ※ Read: Chapter 18. Love of the Lover, Love of the Leader: Youth Romance in North Korean Fiction
Class 15	2024/7/24 (Wed)	Final Presentation & Feedback

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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra days for submission, alternative assignments 	<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.