Course Description

This course will explore the political economy of South Korean development during the postwar period. The purpose of this course is to develop critical understanding of history, society, and culture of South Korea. Topics include compressed modernity, developmental state, social movements, gender politics, financial crisis, urbanization, migration, and recent globalization of Korean popular culture. In the context of the relations among state, society, and culture, this course will address the tensions of industrialization, nationalism, authoritarianism, democracy, and globalization in Korea. We will read various audio-visual sources (photo, film, drama, music, cartoon, podcast, and blog), as well as scholarly articles, as a lens through which to reflect upon various sociocultural issues in Korea.

This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

Textbooks


Requirements

1. Required reading and class participation (10%). Students are required to come to class having already done the reading for the day. This is the minimum required of you to be in the class. All students are expected to contribute to class discussion in a positive, relevant and respectful way.
2. Class attendance (10%). Class attendance is mandatory and will be checked regularly including the add/drop period. Students are allowed one absence. For each unexcused absence after that, your final grade will be lowered by 2 points, up to maximum 10 points. The only exception to this policy is your health condition. In order to be excused from absence due to a health problem, you must bring in a note from your doctor. If you come to class 10 minutes late or leave the classroom earlier, it will be considered as tardiness; three occasions will be regarded as a full absence.

3. Discussion Role (10%). Students will make class presentations to summarize major points of the assigned class reading(s). Summarization should touch authors’ major arguments in the readings within maximum 10 minutes.


5. Group Project (30%). Students (in a group) are required to complete an analytical project on any topics about Korea; your project should contain critical analyses of the selected topics.
   1) Each group need to submit two (single-space) page prospectus to describe what topic(s) you will explore, what types of research method you will employ, what sorts of data you need to collect, and the preliminary and expected findings, by Week 5 (Feb. 16th).
   2) Each group should meet with the instructor at least once before the final presentation to discuss the research topics and analytical frameworks.
   3) Students will make class presentation in Week 12 and Week 13 about the final findings of their projects. Presentations should include research question(s), analytical frameworks, key findings, argument(s), and implication(s).
   4) Each group needs to submit the final project materials by May 4th. (10% of final grade)

6. Take-home final exam (25%). Essay questions based on class lecture and readings. A hardcopy of typed final paper should be submitted no later than May 4th (Thursday) 9:30 am. The final exam questions will be given on April 13th (three weeks before the due date). Late and emailed papers will be accepted, but it will lower your grade by 10 points respectively.

** In any cases you cannot make the deadlines of assignments and papers, you should give me reasonable notice at least one week prior to the deadlines.

** Academic Dishonesty**
Cheating and plagiarism are serious offences and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is representing someone else’s work as your own. This includes handing in another student’s
paper, and it includes using the words and/or ideas from a publication, the web or other source without citation. Always cite your sources (in whatever format). Please refer to this site: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint_plagiarism.php.

**Etiquette**

All lectures are proprietary material. Audio or video of lectures in any forms is not permitted. Please arrive on time. No cell phone use or text messaging during class time.

**University Notices and Policies**

**Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students**

Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your email for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin’s policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php.

**Documented Disability Statement**

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you require special accommodations, you will need to obtain a letter that documents your disability from Services for Studies with Disabilities. **Present the letter to me at the beginning of the semester (within first two weeks)**, so we can discuss the accommodations you need. No later than five business days before an exam, you should remind me of any testing accommodations you will need. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd.

**Religious Holidays**

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Emergency Evacuation Policy**

Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation: Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building. If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class. In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless you’re given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

**Weekly Topics and Readings**

(subject to change at the discretion of the instructor).

**Week 1  Introduction**

Jan. 17. Introduction to class themes and requirements.

Week 2  Developmental State

Jan. 24. Korean Developmental State
Readings:

Jan. 26. State-Society Relations under the Developmental State
Readings:


Week 3  Social Movements

Jan. 31. The Gwangju Democratic Uprising
* Review Paper Due
Readings:

Feb. 2. Minjung Movement
Readings:

Week 4  Gendered Modernity

Feb. 7. Developmentalism and Gendered Citizenship
Readings:

Feb. 9. Gendered Consumption Discourses in Korea
Readings:

Week 5  IMF Crisis I: Financial Speculation

Film: The Crash (Originally presented on the PBS series Frontline, June 29, 1999.)
Feb. 16. Korean Financial Crisis

*Research Prospectus Due*

Readings:


**Week 6  IMF Crisis II: Social Crisis**

Feb. 21. Social Crisis

Readings:


Feb. 23. Changing Identities in Post-IMF Korea

Readings:

**Week 7  Urbanization I**

Feb. 28. Building New Towns and Uneven Development

Mar. 2. Urban Redevelopment

Readings:

**Week 8  Urbanization II**

Mar. 7. Development of Jungmun Tourism Complex

Mar. 9. K-Star Road: Gangnam’s Urban Branding

**Week 9  Spring Break**
Week 10  Migration and Difference

Mar. 21. Migration and the Politics of Difference
Film: Documentary “Lost Baggage (2008)”

Mar. 23. Migration and Contested Citizenship
Readings:

Week 11  K-Beauty?

Mar. 28. The Beauty Industry
Readings:


Week 12  Research Development

Apr. 4. Group Presentations
Apr. 6. Group Presentations

Week 13  Research Development

Apr. 11. Group Presentations
Apr. 13. Group Presentations

Week 14  Global Aspirations I

Apr. 18. English Fever in South Korea
Readings:

Apr. 20. “Wild Geese” Families
Readings:

**Week 15  Global Aspirations II**

Apr. 25. Korean Adoptees

**Readings:**


Apr. 27. Jeju Global Education City

**Week 16  Compressed Modernity**

May. 2. Compressed Modernity of Korea

May. 4. Wrap-up Discussions and Final Review

*Final Exam Due*