Instructor: Stephen Noerper, Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
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Course Description:
The aim of Korean Politics and Foreign Policy (GR4476) is to advance knowledge of Korea’s political development and foreign policy orientation. In order to further student understanding of these topics, this graduate-level class will cover relevant political theory, contemporary history and issues of particular significance to Korean politics. The course will address the sensitive and sometimes volatile nature of Korean domestic politics, the country’s unique geopolitical position, and the dynamics of inter-Korean affairs. The course also will explore major theoretical approaches that explain the nature of Korea’s international relations, as well as the domestic and foreign policy objectives for successive administrations of the Korean government. Class discussions will focus on understanding the primary perspectives and analytical approaches to Korean politics, both South and North, while examining the two Koreas’ efforts to develop bilateral relations and conduct multilateral diplomacy in the contest for legitimacy. There are no specific prerequisites for attending the course, though it would be helpful if students have some prior knowledge of Korean history and the international relations of countries in Northeast Asia.

Course Requirements:
Participation: Attendance at all scheduled sessions is required, as participation is crucial in both lecture and discussion sections and is a major part of the evaluation of student performance.

Reading: Required readings are listed by each weekly session, to be completed for that class. Recommended readings and references are not required reading, but are employed by the professor. References listed by week are available on reserve at the Korea Society for student review and advanced reading. The professor also will make reference to journal and on-line resources, with recommendations for review. Students should be active news readers.

Exam, Essay and Presentations: Grades for the course will be based on the following: 1) 25% on a presentation with peer(s) on the Korean presidency (week 3); 2) 25% on a mid-term essay examination (week 8); and 3) 50% on a 7-10 page single-spaced policy paper related to Korean politics (presented verbally in class weeks 12 and 13 and in final written form on week 13).

Required Texts
Smith, Hazel, North Korea: Markets and Military Rule (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University
Press, 2015)  

Course References (Non Required Reading)
Bluth, Christoph, Korea (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2008)
Eckert, Carter J, Ki-baik Lee, Young Ick Lew, Michael Robinson, and Edward W. Wagner, Korea Old and New: A History (Korea Institute, Harvard University, 1990)
Harden, Blaine, Escape from Camp 14 (New York: Viking, 2012)
Hoare, J.E. and Susan Pares, North Korea in the 21st Century (Kent, UK: Global Oriental, 2005)
Koo, Youngnok and Sung-joo Han (eds.), The Foreign Policy of the Republic of Korea (New York: Columbia University Press, 1985)
Lew, Young Ick, Byong-kie Song, Ho-min Yang, and Hy-sop Lim, translated by Michael Finch, "Korean Perceptions of the United States (Seoul: Jimoondang, 2006)
Mazarr, Michael J., North Korea and the Bomb (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1995)
Moon Chung-in (ed.), Understanding Regime Dynamics in North Korea, (Seoul: Yonsei University Press, 1998)
Rozman, Gilbert, Strategic Thinking about the Korean Nuclear Crisis (New York: Palgrave, 2007)
Rozman, Gilbert, In-Taek Hyun and Shin-wha Lee eds., South Korean Strategic Thought Toward Asia (New York: Palgrave, 2008)

**Course Schedule** *(The course schedule is subject to change)*

**Week 1: Friday, September 9**

Course Overview

Korean Politics and the Politics of Korea

Historical and Geographical Background of Korean Politics

Identity Politics and Korea

**Recommended Reading:**


**Class References** *(Non Required Reading):*

Robinson, Michael Edson, *Cultural Nationalism in Colonial Korea, 1920-1925* (Seattle:
University of Washington Press, 1988)  

**Week 2: Friday, September 16**  
**Domestic Politics: Creating a Korean Political Context**  
**Authoritarianism, Democratization and Political Development**

**Required Reading:**  

**Class References (Non Required Reading):**  

**Week 3: Friday, September 23**  
**Domestic Politics: Presidencies, Personality Politics and Political Leadership**  
**In-class Presentations on Korea and the Presidency**

**Required Reading:**  

**Class References (Non Required Reading):**  

**Week 4: Friday, September 30**

**Politics of Economic Rise and the Developmental State**

**Civil Society, Media and Political Process in Korea**

**Korean Nationalism**

**Required Reading:**

**Class References** *(Non Required Reading):*

Kirk, Donald and Choe, Sang-hun, *Korea Witness: 135 Years of War, Crisis and News in the Land of the Morning Calm* (Seoul: EunHaeng NaMu, 2006)

**Week 5: Friday, October 7**

**Understanding North Korean Politics**

**Dynamics of Inter-Korean Relations**

**Required Reading:**

**Recommended Reading:**
Cha, Victor, *The Impossible State: North Korea, Past and Future* (New York:
Class References (Non Required Reading):
Noerper, Stephen, *The Two Kingdoms Period, in Diplomacy, Volume XXVI, No. 4*, (Seoul, 2000)

Week 6: Friday, October 14
North Korean Ideology, State Behavior and Economics

Required Reading:

Class References (Non Required Reading):

Week 7: Friday, October 21
Defining Strategic Thought in Korea
Domestic Politics: Information and Human Rights in North Korea

Required Reading:

Class References (Non Required Reading):


**Week 8: Friday, October 28**
**Mid-Term Exam**

**Week 9: Friday, November 4**
**Korean Foreign Policies and Regional Affairs**
**Korea and a Regional Politics and Security**

**Required Reading:**

**Recommended Reading:**

**Class References** *(Non Required Reading):*

**Week 10: Friday, November 11**
**Korea-US Alliance, Global Roles and Korea’s Domestic Politics**

**Required Reading:**

**Recommended Reading:**

**Class References** *(Non Required Reading):*
Noerper, Stephen and Peter Hayes, *The Future of the US-ROK Alliance* in Hayes and

**Week 11: Friday, November 18**

**Domestic Politics and Korea-Japan Relations**

**Required Reading:**

**Recommended Reading:**

**Class References** *(Non Required Reading):*
Kim, Yong-koo, *Korea and Japan: The Clash of Worldviews*, 1868-1876, (Seoul, Circle, 2006)

**Week 12: Friday, December 2**

**Domestic Politics and Korea-China Relations**
**Politics and the China-US Conundrum**
**Korean Politics: Final Paper Presentations**

**Class References** *(Non Required Reading):*

**Week 13: Friday, December 9**

**Korean Politics: Final Paper Presentations**