The purpose of this course is to provide students overall understanding of the politics in the Korean peninsula (North and South Korea) since the 1945 liberation. As the crisis of North Korean nuclear weapons development is getting deeper, a proper knowledge of the historical and political contexts in this region is gaining importance. At the same time, Korean cultural/soft power has become very influential recently. The Korean peninsula has had geographic importance for politics in Northeast Asia for over a thousand years. Located between Japan and China, Korean domestic politics and international politics have never been clearly separate. Hence, the course will be attentive to the subtle interactions between internal political dynamics and shifting international power structures.

Grading:

- Midterm: 30%
- Final: 40%
- 1 film review (3-4 pgs): 10%
- Class Participation: 20%

Schedule

**Week 1**  
**Introduction: Korean Development & Democracy (Jan. 14 & 16)**

**Week 2**  
**A Brief Survey of Korean Political History I (Jan. 21 & 23)**
From Pre-Modern East Asian State to Divided Two States
*readings: Heo & Roehrig, chap. 1.

**Week 3**  
**A Brief Survey of Korean Political History II (Jan. 28 & Feb. 4)**
From Korean War to Contemporary Korea
*readings: Heo & Roehrig, chap. 2 - chap. 4

**Week 4**  
**Korean Democracy I (Feb. 6 & 11)**
State and Civil Society / State and People
*readings: Kim / Koo

**Week 5**  
**Korean Democracy II (Feb. 13 & 18)**
Democratic Consolidation / Democracy after Democracy
*readings: Republic of Korea / Katharine H. S. Moon

**Week 6**  
**Cinematic Representations of Korean Society (Feb. 20 & 25)**
*readings: Introduction, *Korean Cinema of the Global Era*

**Week 7**  
**Korean Melodramas: Gender, Class and Family (Feb. 27 & Mar. 4)**
*readings: Ch 2 (pp. 43-64) *South Korean Golden Age Melodrama: Gender, Genre and National Cinema*
Week 8  The Korean Soft Power: K-POP (Mar. 6 & 11)
*readings: John Lie, “What is the K in K-pop: South Korean Popular Music, the Culture, Industry and National Identity”* Jstor article

Week 9  Mid-Term Exam. (Mar. 13 & 18)

Week 10  Idol Culture, Stardom and Fandom (Mar. 20 & 25)
*readings :  Ch 2 (pp. 35-72)Korean Masculinities and Transcultural Consumption

Week 11  Korea and Park Chung-Hee (Mar. 27 & Apr. 1)
*readings: Woo, chap. 4-5

Week 12  Korean Political Economy before the Asian Financial Crisis (Apr. 3&8)
readings: Heo & Roehrig - p.28–40, 41-50, chap. 4 (+ Robison & Beeson - ch.7).

Week 13  Korean Political Economy after the Asian Financial Crisis (Apr. 10 & 15)
*readings: Heo & Roehrig – 51-65, 65-77; Ryu and Lee (+Lee and Lim)

Week 14-15  Q&A/Final Exam. (Apr. 17 & 22)

Reading Lists
- Heo, Uk and Terence Roehrig, South Korea Since 1980 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010).
- Jung, Sun, Korean Masculinities and Transcultural Consumption (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2011).
- McHugh, Kathleen and Abelmann, Nancy, South Korean Golden Age Melodrama:Gender, Genre and National Cinema (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2005).

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