**Seminar on North Korea: politics and economy in North Korea 북한세미나: 북한의 정치와 경제**

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2010 Fall, Wednesdays, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, GSIS Building 140, Room 103

The aim of this course is to build up conceptual tools for a proper critique of political economy, including that of North Korea. We begin by reading texts on socialist political economy in general and on the cases of Hungary, Soviet Union, and China. Then we move onto North Korea, with texts with such themes as ideology, culture, gender, and unification. Each class involves a short lecture followed by a theme-oriented discussion. Some lectures will include movies.

We have nine weeks of reading. All readings are available in pdf. Each person is to submit 7 response papers, each on a particular week. A response paper should be about 1,000 words long, consisting of half summary and half criticism. The final exam is the class presentation. Each person is to prepare a 30-minute presentation on a topic chosen with the instructor. The student evaluation is as follows: attendance 30%, response papers 35%, and class presentation 35%.

**Part 1: Introduction to socialist political economy, and the cases of Europe and China**

**Wk 1, 9/1.** Read for 9/15: “Fellow traveler” by Kim Pyŏng-hun; “Value, price, and profit” by Karl Marx; *Magnetic Mountain* “Building socialism” by Stephen Kotkin.

**Wk 2, 9/8.** No class.

**Wk 3, 9/15.** Read for 9/29: *The socialist system,* chapters 1-11, by János Kornai; *Dream of a red factory* by Deborah Kaple

**Wk 4, 9/22.** No class.

**Wk 5, 9/29.** Movie in class: “The flower girl”; read for 10/6: *Politics of production* by Michael Burawoy

**Wk 6, 10/6.** Read for 10/13: “Socialist construction” by Kim Il Sung; “The cultural cold war in Korea” by Charles Armstrong

**Part 2: Critique of political economy of North Korea**

**Wk 7, 10/13.** Read for 27: “Land reform, collectivization, and the peasants in North Korea” by Chong-Sik Lee; “North Korea’s Fourth Party Congress” by Ilpyong J. Kim

**Wk 8, 10/20.** No class:

**Wk 9, 10/27.** Movie in class: “The game of their lives”; read for 11/3: “North Korean perceptions of self and others” by Han S. Park; “Women and revolution in North Korea” by Kyong Ae Park; *North Koreans in Japan*, “The rise of legitimate identity” by Sonia Ryang.

**Wk 10, 11/3.** Read for 11/10: “Soviet influence on the North Korean education system” by Andrei Lankov; “Theater in the DPRK” by Colin Mackerras; “Do parents prefer sons in North Korea?” by Daniel Good kind

**Wk 11, 11/10.** Read for 11/17: *Korea and its futures: unification and the unfinished war* by Roy Richard Grinker

**Wk 12, 11/17.** Movie in class: “A state of mind”; Read for 11/24: “The political ecology of famine” by Meredith Woo-Cumings; *North Korea*, “The nuclear crisis” by Bruce Cumings

**Wk 13, 11/24.** Discussion day

**Wk 14, 12/1.** Class presentations

**Wk 15, 12/8.** Class presentations (last day of class)