**Modern Korean History and Society**

Semester 2, 2019 (September-December)

Tuesday, 0900-1150

Building 140-2, Room 202

Instructor: Erik Mobrand

Email: erikmobrand@snu.ac.kr

Consultation hours: Tues. 13.00-15.00

Office: Building 140-1, room 513

TA: Dayoung Lee

**Description:**

This course offers an introduction to key issues in Korean society, with a focus on South Korea. This semester we train our focus on the various narratives commonly used for understanding social, political, and economic change in South Korea. We examine three frames in particular during the course: the strong state, modernization, and democratization. We then consider the ways transnational Korean entanglements complicate national stories. Along the way, we analyze and debate big concepts that have been developed to understand South Korean society.

**Assignments and expectations:**

Memos: During the course of the term, students will write four memos. The memos should respond to a major argument in the week’s readings. The memos should offer analysis, not just summary, of the readings. Memos are due at the start of the seminar for the week they cover. They should be submitted both as hard copies and online through ETL. You may choose the weeks you prefer to prepare memos. A memo should be no more than 500 words in length.

Final exam: The final exam is a take-home assignment. You will be given a week to prepare an essay in response to a question set by the instructor. The assignment will be based on the course readings and discussions. The essay is due Thursday, 5 December, at 12 noon. You should submit it online through ETL.

Attendance and participation: You are expected to be in class every week. Complete the readings before class and be prepared to discuss them. Starting on 17 September, students will make brief presentations of fewer than five minutes each. The instructor will assign students to weeks for the presentations. In your presentation, you should make a point about a theme from the week’s readings and you should offer one or two questions that you have after doing the readings. These presentations will help our seminar discussions.

Plagiarism: Don’t do it. Plagiarism is cheating and it’s taken seriously. Ignorance isn’t an excuse. If you’re unsure what constitutes plagiarism, consult the instructor.

**Grading:**

Memos (4 x 10 points): 40

Final exam (take home): 30

Seminar participation: 30

**Semester Outline:**

**Part 1: Identifying the Subject**

**3 September: Introduction**

*No readings*

**6 September (FRIDAY, 0900): Special session on the ROK state in Southeast Asia**

*Readings:*

* Kim, Eun Mee, Pil Ho Kim, Jinkyung Kim. From Development to Development Cooperation: Foreign Aid, Country Ownership, and the Developmental State in South Korea. *The Pacific Review* (2013): 1-24. Online via SNU Library.
* Kim, Soyeun and Kevin Gray. Overseas Development Aid as Spatial Fix? Examining South Korea’s Africa Policy. *Third World Quarterly* 37, no. 4 (2016): 649-664. Online via SNU Library.
* Doucette, Jamie and Anders Riel Müller. Exporting the Saemaul Spirit. *Geoforum* 75 (2016): 29-39.

**10 September: Whose history?**

*Readings:*

* Miyoshi-Jager, Sheila. *Narratives of Nation Building in Korea: A Genealogy of Patriotism*. London: Routledge, 2016. Introduction, Ch. 3, 6. Online via SNU Library.
* Em, Henry H. *The Great Enterprise: Sovereignty and Historiography in Modern Korea*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2013. Chapter 3 and 5. Online via ETL.

**17 September: Division and history**

*Readings:*

* Paik, Nak-Chung. South Korean Democracy and Korea’s Division System. *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 14, no. 1 (2013): 156-169.
* Miyoshi-Jager, Sheila and Rana Mitter. *Ruptured Histories: War, Memory, and the Post-Cold War in Asia*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007. Introduction, Ch. 10-11. Online via ETL.

**Part 2: The Strong State Narrative**

**24 September: The developmental state**

*Readings:*

* Woo, Jung-En. *Race to the Swift: State and Finance in Korean Industrialization*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1990. Ch. 1.Online via ETL.
* Cotton, James. Understanding the State in South Korea: Bureaucratic-Authoritarian or State Autonomy Theory. *Comparative Political Studies* 24, no. 4 (1992): 512-531.
* Han, S.M. Park Chung Hee and the Making of ‘State Populism’ in Korea: The Case of the New Community Movement. *Pacific Affairs* 77, no. 1 (2004): 69-93.
* Seo, Jungmin and Kim, Sungmoon. Civil Society under Authoritarian Rule: Basanghoe and Extraordinary Everyday-ness in Korean Neighborhoods. *Korea Journal* 55, no. 1 (2015): 59-85.

**1 October: After the developmental state**

*Readings:*

* Shin, Hyun Bang and Soo-Hyun Kim. The Developmental State, Speculative Urbanisation and the Politics of Displacement in Gentrifying Seoul. *Urban Studies* 53, no. 3 (2016): 540-569.
* Hundt, David. Economic Crisis in Korea and the Degraded Developmental State. *Australian Journal of International Affairs* 68, no. 5 (2014): 499-514.
* Kim, Jongcheol. Courts in the Republic of Korea: Featuring a Built-in Authoritarian Legacy of Centralization and Bureaucratization. In Jiunn-rong Yeh and Wen-Chen Chang, eds., *Asian Courts in Context*, pp. 112-142. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

**Part 3: The Modernization Narrative**

**8 October: Origins of modernity**

*Readings:*

* Shin, Gi-Wook and Michael Robinson, eds. *Colonial Modernity in Korea*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999. Introduction and Chpts 1-5.

**11 October (FRIDAY, 0900): Special session on Korean peninsula issues**

*Readings to be announced*

**15 October: Compressed modernity**

*Readings:*

* Chang Kyung-Sup. *South Korea under Compressed Modernity: Familial Political Economy in Transition*. London: Routledge, 2010. Chpts 1-6. Online via SNU Library.

**22 October: Militarized modernity**

*Readings:*

* Moon, Seungsook. *Militarized Modernity and Gendered Citizenship in South Korea*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2005. Introduction and Chpts 1-6.

**Part 4: The Democratization Narrative**

**29 October: Movement politics**

*Readings:*

* Chang, Paul Y. Unintended Consequences of Repression: Alliance Formation in South Korea’s Democracy Movement (1970-1979). *Social Forces* 87, no. 2 (2008): 651-677.
* Lee, Namhee. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2007. *The Making of Minjung*. Introduction, Ch. 1-4.
* Lee, Katherine In-Young. The Drumming of Dissent during South Korea’s Democratization Movement. *Ethnomusicology* 56, no. 2 (2012): 179-205.

**5 November: Building democracy**

*Readings:*

* Kim, Samuel S., ed. *Korea’s Democratization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chpts. 1, 5, 7. Online via SNU Library.
* Ch’oe Jang Jip. *Democracy after Democratization: The Korean Experience.* Stanford, CA: Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, 2012. Ch. 1-4. Available via ETL.

**12 November: Movements after democracy**

*Readings:*

* Lee, Kyung. Fighting in the Shadow of the Past: The Mobilizing Role of Vernacular Memories of the 1987 Pro-Democracy Movement in the 2008 Candlelight Protests in Korea. *Memory Studies* 7, no. 1 (2014): 61-75.
* Kim, Sunhyuk. Civil Society in South Korea: From Grand Democracy Movements to Petty Interest Groups? *Journal of Northeast Asian Studies* 15, no. 2 (1996): 81-97.
* Park, Mi. *South Korea’s Candlelight Revolution: The Power of Plaza Democracy*. Vancouver: Coal Harbour Publishing, 2018.

### Part 5: Transnationalism and National Narratives

**19 November: Identity and transnationalism**

*Readings:*

* Kim, Hyejin. Transnational Korean Networks and Business in China. *Europe-Asia Studies* 70, no. 7 (2018): 1143-1158.
* Shin, Gi-Wook, James Freda, and Gihong Yi. The Politics of Ethnic Nationalism in Divided Korea. *Nations and Nationalism* 5, no. 4 (1999): 465-484.
* Lee, Chulwoo. South Korea: The Transformation of Citizenship and the State-Nation Nexus. *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 40, no. 2 (2010): 230-251.

**26 November: Mobility: Labour and marriage migration**

*Readings:*

* Kim, Gyuchan and Majella Kilkey. Marriage Migration Policy in South Korea: Social Investment beyond the Nation State. *International Migration* 56, no. 1 (2018): 23-38.
* Lee, Hye-Kyung. International Marriage and the State in South Korea: Focusing on Governmental Policy. *Citizenship Studies* 12, no. 1 (2008): 107-123.
* Lim, Timothy. Rethinking Belongingness in Korea: Transnational Migration, ‘Migrant Marriages’ and the Politics of Multiculturalism. *Pacific Affairs* 83, no. 1 (2010): 51-71.

**3 & 10 December: \*Work on final essays\***

*No readings*