Modern Korean History and Society

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Week 1. Korea in the World: From the Tributary system to Cold War system

Reading: Hwang Kyung Moon, A Korean History

Week 2. Division of the Korean Peninsula
Main Question: 1. What is the most critical cause to divide the Korean Peninsula in 1945?
2. Why is the Korean Peninsula still divided even after the collapse of the Cold War system?

Reading: Park, An Ally and Empire, Two Myth in Korea-US Relationship, AKS, 2012, Chapter 1
Bruce Cumings, Korea's Place in the Sun,

Discussion: The US or the Soviet?

Week 3. Korean War
Main Question: 1. Why did Stalin and Mao agree with Kim's plan in early 1950? What was the most critical cause?
2. Why did the release of the anti-communist POWs by President Rhee was considered so serious by the US?

Reading: Park, An Ally and Empire, Two Myth in Korea-US Relationship, AKS, 2012, Chapter 2, 3
Park, The Korean War, Chapter 3

Discussion: Was the America's involvement in the Korean War a wise decision from the viewpoint of the US national interest?

Week 4. Unfinished War and Armistice system

Main Question: 1. What are the most critical problem of the Armistice Agreement?
2. Why does North Korea want to replace the Armistice Agreement? Why does South Korea did not agree with the replacement?

Reading: Park, "Beyond the Myth," Pacific Affairs, 2009
Documents: Agreement between the Commander in Chief, United Nations Command, and the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army and the Commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers, Concerning a Military Armistice in Korea, signed at Panmunjom, Korea, July 27, 1953

Discussion: Possibility of the Peace Treaty

**Week 5. Political Parties and Politicians in South Korea**

Main Question: What caused frequent changes in political parties in South Korea?

Reading: Carter Eckert, Korea Old and New, Chapter 18

**Week 6. Economic Development until 1980s**

Main Question: 1. Why did Rostow stress the significance of the economic development in the developing countries?
2. Why did South Korea face the economic crisis in the late 1960s and late 1970s? Any problem from inside or outside?

Reading: Park, An Ally and Empire, Two Myth in Korea–US Relationship, AKS, 2012, Chapter 4
Carter Eckert, Korea Old and New, Chapter 19

Discussion: What caused the economic crisis? Inside or Outside?

**Week 7. Vietnam War and Korea**

Main Question: 1. What was the effect of the Vietnam War in Korea?
2. Why did the leaders in East Asia try to consolidate its regime in early 1970s?
And was it successful?

Reading: 1. Park, An Ally and Empire, Two Myth in Korea–US Relationship, AKS, 2012, Chapter 6 and 7

Week 8 ~ Week 14. by Kim, Chong Min

8. Korea’s Encounter with Modernity
Carter Eckert, “Korea's Transition to Modernity, A Will to Greatness” Historical Perspectives on Contemporary East Asia, 121-151.


10. Transformation of Korean Industries
Joseph J. Stern et al., Industrialization and the State: The Korean Heavy and Chemical Industry Drive, Harvard Institute for International Development and Korea Development Institute, Harvard University Press, 1996.5

11. Social Movement and Democracy
12. Modernization and Family

13. Education in Korea

14. Korean Wave

Week 15. Final paper

Grade: Attendance 20%, Presentation 20%, Discussion 20%, Weekly Paper and Question 20%, Final paper 20%