Course Objective

The course discusses geo-political dynamics surrounding the Korean Peninsula and Korea’s place in it. The topic of discussion will focus on the power transition that is happening in the 21st century in Northeast Asia between China, Japan and the United States and its impacts on the Korean Peninsula. For this, the course will first discuss the power transitions happened in the past centuries and Korea’s interaction with the major powers in the region. Second focus will be Korea’s relations with its neighbors in modern times under each administration since the establishment of Republic of Korea in 1948. Another focus will be given to two Korea’s domestic situations and their relationship. The course will try to see what could be the future options for the two Koreas in dealing with outstanding issues like nuclear weapon development, unification, alliance management and 21st century geo political situations in the region and beyond.

Course Requirements

1. Class participation (20%)
2. Group presentation (40%)
3. Final Essay (40%)

Guidelines

- **Attendance** will be important for keeping up with class. Good attendance and active participation will be reflected in grade.

- In their **group presentation**, students would provide summary presentation of each week’s topic based on the reading materials and independent
research. The presentation should provide creative discussion of each issues related to the Peninsula questions given by the lecturer.

- Each student should write an essay about a given question about South Korea’s foreign policy challenges in the 21st century.

- Students are always welcome to ask instructor for clarification during or after class when you feel confused. Yet, if you miss a class, please do not come to instructor for explanation or the lecture note of the missed class. You may contact other students for this

- All students must exhibit professionalism in and out of classroom. Students are required to uphold an honor code regarding “academic standards, cheating, plagiarism, and the documentation of written work,” and be aware of the responsibility. And no checking email and web chat and browsing during the class.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignment

Week 1 (Sep 6): INTRODUCTION

- No Class on September 13

Week 2 (Sep 20): UNIFICATION UNDER SILLA-TANG ALLIANCE IN THE 7TH CENTURY

Readings:

- Han, Woo-Keun, The History of Korea (Seoul: Eul-Yoo, 1970), pp. 75-89.

- What was the relationship between the three kingdoms on the Korean Peninsula?
- What was the critical factors for Silla’s unification policy and success?
- What was Tang’s interest and contribution in the Korean unification?
Week 3 (Sep 27): JAPANESE INVASIONS OF JOSEON IN THE 16TH CENTURY

Readings:

- Han, Woo-Keun, The History of Korea (Seoul: Eul-Yoo, 1970), pp. 268-278.
- Samuel Hawley, The Imjin War: Japan’s Sixteenth-Century Invasion of Korea and Attempt to Conquer China (Seoul: Royal Asiatic Society-Korea Branch, 2005), pp. 2-72

- What was the Japanese intention?
- What was the Joseon’s strategy before, during and after the war?
- What was the Ming’s interest and strategy?

Week 4 (Sep 27): MANCHU INVASIONS OF JOSEON IN THE 17TH CENTURY

Readings:

- Han, Woo-Keun, The History of Korea (Seoul: Eul-Yoo, 1970), pp. 268-278.
- Samuel Hawley, The Imjin War: Japan’s Sixteenth-Century Invasion of Korea and Attempt to Conquer China (Seoul: Royal Asiatic Society-Korea Branch, 2005), pp. 2-72

- What was the Manchu’s intention?
- What was the Joseon’s foreign policy before, during and after the war?
- What was the interaction between Ming-Qing transition and the Korean peninsula?

- No Class on October 4 (Chuseok National Holiday)
Week 5 (Oct 11): LATE JOSEON AND GREAT POWER WARS: 
THE SINO-JAPANESE WAR 1894-95 AND 
THE RUSSO- JAPANESE WAR 1904-05

Readings:


- What was the Japan’s strategic interest and policy to Korea?
- What was the Korean reaction?
- Ito Hirobumi’s “Great East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere” and Ahn Jung-geun’s “On Peace in East Asia”

Week 6 (Oct 18): KIM KOO AND JAPANESE IMPERIALISM

Readings:

- Kim Koo, “My Dream” an Essay (December 1947)
Topic 2. The Pacific War and San Francisco Treaty

- Why history still matters in Korea and Japan?
- Who is learning and telling the whole story?

Week 7 (Oct 25): SYNGMAN RHEE AND THE KOREAN WAR

Readings:


Topic 1. The Korean War and The Origin of ROK-US Alliance
Topic 2. Armistice and Peace Treaty on the Korean Peninsula

- American interest in the Korean Peninsula then and now
- How to end the Korean War for good?

Week 8 (Nov 1): PARK CHUNG HEE AND COLD WAR

Readings:

and South Korean Politics during the Early 1960s, Korea Journal, 49(2), 9-36.


Topic 1. Korea-Japan Normalization and History issues today
Topic 2. Crisis on the Peninsula and the July 4th South-North Joint communique
- Korea-Japan relations then and today: How can they get along?
- Crisis management on the Korean Peninsula: How to avoid a war?

Week 9 (Nov 8): CHUN DOO HWAN AND KOREAN DEMOCRACY

Readings:

- James M. Lister, Ambassadors’ Memoir: U.S.-Korea Relations Through the Eyes of the Ambassadors (Korea Economic Institute of America, 2009). pp. 1-30

Topic 1. Gwangju and Anti-Americanism
Topic 2. Regime change within? And Politics of Democratic transition
- CHUN DOO-HWAN, an able dictator?
- 6.10 Protest 1987 and 88 Olympic
- Chun and Reagan then, and Kim regime and China today
Week 10 (Nov 15): ROH TAE WOO AND END OF THE COLD WAR

Readings:

- Jae Ho Chung, Between Ally and Partner: Korea-China Relations and the United States (New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 2007)

Topic 1. Korea-Russia Normalization then and now
Topic 2. Korea-China Normalization then and now
- Roh’s Northern Policy
- ROK-Russia, ROK-PRC normalization
- Inter-Korean Reconciliation

Week 11 (Nov 22): KIM YOUNG SAM AND KOREAN GLOBALIZATION

Readings:


- James M. Lister, Ambassadors' Memoir: U.S.-Korea Relations Through the Eyes of the Ambassadors (Korea Economic Institute of America, 2009). pp. 67-106

**Topic 1. The 1st nuclear crisis**
**Topic 2. Nuclear negotiation and Agreed framework**

- Kim’s Globalization initiative
- 1st North Korean nuclear crisis

**Week 12 (Nov 29): KIM DAE JUNG AND SUNSHINE POLICY**

**Readings:**


**Topic 1. South Korea’s sunshine engagement with North Korea**
**Topic 2. South Korea, US, China’s approach to deal with North Korea**

- Sunshine engagement and Inter-Korean reconciliation
- Kaesung Industrial Complex and Kumkang Mt.
- ROKorea-US-China relations
Week 13 (Dec 6): ROH MOO HYUN AND SELF-RELIANT DEFENSE

Readings:

- Jae Ho Chung, Between Ally and Partner: Korea-China Relations and the United States (New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 2007), pp. 1-18, 75-121
- Paul B. Stares and Joel S. Wit, “Preparing for Sudden Change in North Korea,” Council on Foreign Relations Special Report No. 42 (January 2009).
- James M. Lister, Ambassadors' Memoir: U.S.-Korea Relations Through the Eyes of the Ambassadors (Korea Economic Institute of America, 2009). pp. 179-216

Topic 1. Restructuring the ROK-US alliance
Topic 2. South Korea, a balancer/middle power?

- WOC Transfer and Self-reliant defense
- What’s got to do with South Korea’s middle power role?
- KORUS FTA

Week 14 (Dec 13): LEE MYUNG BAK AND PARK GEUN-HYE

Readings:

- Yun Byung-Se, “Park Geun-hye’s Trustpolitik: A New Framework for South Korea’s Foreign Policy,” Global Asia Vol. 8, No. 3 (Fall 2013), pp. 8-15.
• Yoonkyung Lee, “Popular reset: South Korean Democracy in the Post-Park Era,” Global Asia Vol. 12, No. 2 (Summer 2017), 8-17.

**Topic 1. Succession in the 38 North and inter-Korean relations**

**Topic 2. South Korea under pressure between eagle and dragon**

- Lee’s Vision 3000 (Denuclearization and Openness policy) and Park’s Trustpolitik/Unification Jackpot
- Does/Should South Korea want unification?
- What should be the contingency plan?
- Seoul under increasing pressure from Washington and Beijing
- Challenges for President Moon

**Week 15 (Dec 20): FINAL PAPER**