

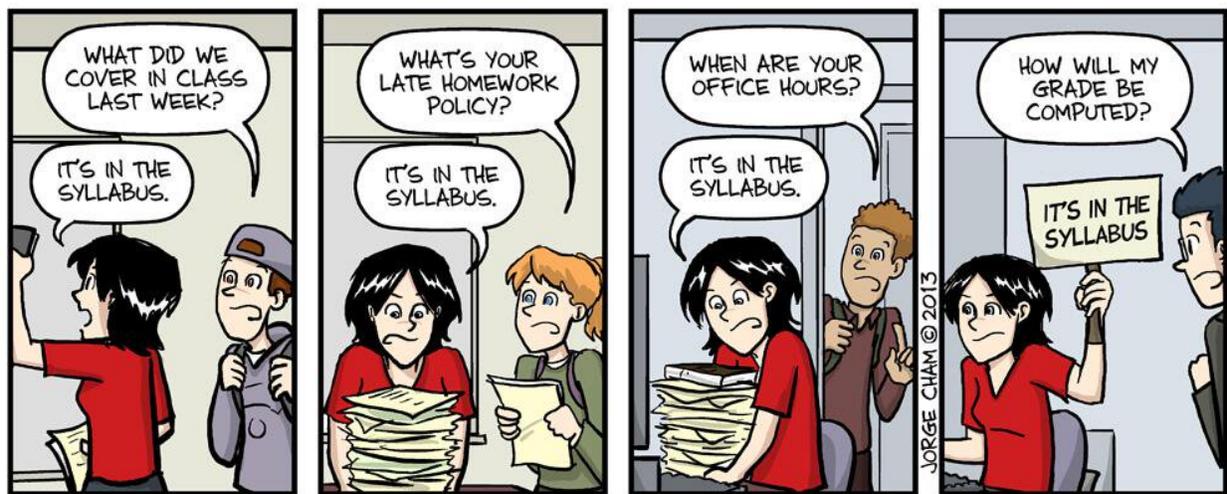
Korean Politics and Foreign Policy
Spring 2022

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Always feel free to e-mail me if you have questions or concerns regarding the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course explores the changes in politics, economics, society and foreign policy in South Korea. In the 1950s, South Korea was one of the poorest countries in the world with minimal foreign relations. However, South Korea has rapidly developed its economy and transitioned its political system to democracy. These changes led to the demand for different foreign relations. Thus, in this course, we study how South Korea has developed its economy and what the effects of economic development on politics and foreign policies are. We also analyze current issues in domestic politics and foreign relations including challenges facing the Korean democratic system, the North Korean nuclear crisis, changed relationship between the US and South Korea, issues in the Korea-Japan relationship and South Korea's foreign policy towards China and Russia. At the end of the class, you should have a good understanding of Korean politics and foreign policy.



IT'S IN THE SYLLABUS

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REQUIREMENTS

2 Exams (25 percent each): You will be tested on the assigned readings and lecture notes. Exams will have multiple choice questions and a short essay. The essay question will be graded separately after the exam period is over. **No make-up exam will be allowed unless students have a university approved excuse.**

11 Discussions (3 percent each): You are expected to post your response to the discussion question, which must be at least 300 words long. You are also expected to comment on another student's posting. The comment has no minimum length requirement, but you must justify your comment. Simply saying "I like it" or "I agree with your argument" is not acceptable. You must explain why you agree or disagree with the posting. Please also try to avoid direct quotes. One of the objectives of this weekly discussion is improving your skill to articulate yourself. Try to avoid direct quotes. If you must, minimize them. **No late posting will be accepted.**

A Research Paper (17 percent): Students are free to choose the topic of the paper as long as it is related to the course material and contents. Turn in the paper to the Assignments on Canvas. Please do NOT ask for a research question. I do NOT provide a research question because coming up with a research question is part of learning. Please also do not ask me to read your draft. That said, feel free to contact me to see if your research question is acceptable or your argument makes. Or anything you are concerned or not sure, ask me. I will be happy to assist you to narrow down the focus of the question or try to help you improve your theory/argument or paper in general.

Research Paper Guidelines: The length requirement is 3,000-3,500 words (approximately 10-12 double spaced pages with Times New Roman 12-point font size and 1-inch margin) including everything (references, tables, and figures). You can have a cover page if you wish. You MUST have at least FIVE references, preferably academic journal articles and/or books. There is NO required citation format. It is fine as long as your format is consistent. This research paper satisfies the capstone requirement (there is no additional requirement for capstone).

1. You MUST have a clearly defined and narrowly focused question. I suggest that you develop a research question in a literal question form. For instance, what led North Korea to develop nuclear weapons? How South Korea developed its economy? What is the impact of economic development on South Korea's foreign policies? What caused the transition to democracy in South Korea? What affects the relationship between South Korea and Japan (or the United States or China)? When you think about the question, first come up with a topic/subject you are MOST interested in. Then, think about a specific question you would like to answer (or study more to learn more about it).

2. In the introduction, introduce the research question and describe why it is meaningful/interesting. This is important because you can face the so-what question.

3. At the beginning of the body, provide background information. If it is a case study or analytical paper, describe historical background so that readers can understand the upbringing. If it is a theoretical paper, provide a literature review on the subject.

4. In the main body of the paper, make your theory/argument, which is your answer to the research question. Your theory/argument should be logical and supported by (empirical) evidence.

5. In the conclusion, summarize what you did in the paper and discuss theoretical or policy implications of your findings.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Chapters of the following books will be available on the course site:

Heo, Uk and Terence Roehrig. 2018. *The Evolution of the South Korea-United States Alliance*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Heo, Uk and Terence Roehrig. 2014. *South Korea's Rise: Economic Development, Power, and Foreign Relations*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Heo, Uk and Terence Roehrig. 2010. *South Korea Since 1980*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

GRADES

Exams will have multiple choice questions and a short essay question taken through Canvas. You can take exams at any time during the week it is available, but you will only have one opportunity to take it. **Once you begin the exam, you MUST finish it.** You **cannot** start an exam, then enter again at a later time to finish it. Also, exams will be timed (60 minutes), so you will have a set amount of time to take the exam once you begin. You should make sure that you have set aside the whole time allotted to take the exam just in case you need it. You should also make sure that you have a secure connection before you begin. **Internet connection or any other computer related problems cannot be an excuse for not finishing it on time.** You should study and prepare for these exams in the same way you would any closed-book exam and be prepared to complete the exam on your own.

You will get full credit for your discussion response as long as it is 300 words or longer AND you comment on another student's response on time. When you comment on another student's response, you are required to justify your comment as noted. Simply saying you like it or agree with the posting will not be good enough to get full credit. Again, your response **MUST be at least 300 words** in length, but there is no length requirement for your comments. If your response is shorter than 300 words or if you fail to comment on another student's response, you will get 1 point for your discussion response. Late posting will NOT be accepted.

You are required to post your response to the discussion question(s) on the Canvas site by 11:59 PM of the due date. **Keep in mind that all responses and postings on the Discussion Questions forum must follow the rules of behavior we would observe in the face-to-face classroom. Your responses to the discussion questions should address the question itself (DO NOT QUESTION THE DISCUSSION QUESTION) and demonstrate that you understand the topic under discussion. When you respond to someone else's posting, do so with respect. Personal attacks or excessive opinion-spouting will not be tolerated.** You should engage each other's ideas and respond in a thoughtful, constructive, informed manner.

There is no other extra credit:

Please do NOT ask for extra credit work at the end of the semester as I will not give it to anyone. That said, I do the following:

- I curve the grade of each grading item to make the highest score 100%. For example, if the highest score of the mid-term exam is 23 out of 25, I will add 2 points to make it 25. That means everyone will receive 2 extra points for the mid-term exam.

- If you get a perfect score for all discussions, I will move your grade up a notch. For example, you discussion grades are perfect, and your final score for the course is 91. That means, your grade for the course should be an A-. But I will give you an A. I do that to motivate you to participate in all weekly discussions. Since we do not meet in person, weekly discussions are extremely important for learning. That said, I will only do this for the students who have perfect scores for all discussions. If your discussion scores are not perfect, PLEASE do NOT ask for it. It is a waste of time.

Any student who cheats on an exam or commits any other act of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, taking the test together) will receive an F for the course and will be referred to the appropriate university authorities. Copying someone else's work without proper quote or citation is plagiarism. You MUST avoid plagiarism when you post your response to discussion questions and write your research paper.

A = 93-100	A- = 90-90.9		
B+ = 87-89.9	B = 83-86.9	B- = 80-82.9	
C+ = 77-79.9	C = 73-76.9	C- = 70-72.9	
D+ = 67-69.9	D = 63-66.9	D- = 60-62.9	F = Below 60

Flow of the Class:

For this course, a week will start on the first day of the week at 12:01 AM and end on the last day of the week 11:59 PM. Posted my lecture notes combined with the readings from the textbook or any other assigned reading material, will constitute the materials for the week. You are expected to do the reading, access the lecture notes, and answer the discussion question and comment on another student's post (**This is your responsibility**).

Please remember that I will be sending everything to your UWM e-mail accounts. If you don't regularly use that account, make sure you check it or forward it to an account you do use regularly. When you need to e-mail me something for the class, send it to me at heouk@uwm.edu.

SCHEDULE

Week 1 (1/24-30) Introduction

Please post a brief introduction of yourself in the discussion section on Canvas. This is NOT a discussion, so the discussion response requirements do not apply here.

Week 2 (1/31-2/6) A Brief History

Reading: South Korea Since 1980 Ch. 1

Discussion 1: What is the uniqueness of Korean history?

Week 3 (2/7-13) Economic Development and Democratization

Reading: South Korea Since 1980 Ch. 2&4

Discussion 2: What made Korea possible to develop its economy so rapidly? Besides economic development, what else facilitated Korea's transition to democracy?

- Week 4 (2/14-20) Democratic Consolidation and New Challenges,
Readings: South Korea Since 1980 Ch. 3; **Heo, Uk** and Sung Deuk Hahm. 2014.
“Political Culture and Democratic Consolidation in South Korea” *Asian Survey* 54(5):
918-940.
Discussion 3: Do you think Korea’s democracy is consolidated? Using examples,
describe why you think Korea’s democracy is consolidated or not consolidated.
- Week 5 (2/21-27) Financial Crisis and Economic Reform
Readings: South Korea Since 1980 Ch. 4&5
Discussion 4: What caused the financial crisis in South Korea in 1997?
- Week 6 (2/28-3/6) Economic Development and Foreign Policy Change
Readings: South Korea’s Rise Ch. 1; **Heo, Uk** and Terence Roehrig. 2018. “Development
Power Theory: The South Korean Case.” *Pacific Focus*. 33(1): 111-140.
Discussion 5: Briefly describe and evaluate Development Power Theory using Korean
examples.
- Week 7 (3/7-13) South Korea’s Foreign Relations with Japan
Readings: South Korea’s Rise Ch. 6
Discussion 6: Japan is geographically close to Korea, but it has been emotionally distant.
Why do think that is the case? What can be done to improve the relationship?
- Week 8 (3/14-20) **Mid-term Exam**—You can take the mid-term exam at any time before the
deadline. There will be NO make-up exam as you have a week to take the test.
- Week 9 (3/21-27) **Spring Recess**
- Week 10 (3/28-4/3) US-South Korea Alliance I: Security
Readings: South Korea-US Alliance Ch. 2&4
Discussion 7: US forces have been deployed in South Korea since 1953. What was its
role during the Cold War, and how its role has changed since the end of the Cold War?
- Week 11 (4/4-10) US-South Korea Alliance II: Economy
Reading: South Korea-US Alliance Ch. 5; South Korea’s Rise Ch. 4; South Korea Since
1980 Ch. 5.
Discussion 8: The United States and South Korea have a free trade agreement. Describe
benefits and drawbacks of the trade agreement.
- Week 12 (4/11-17) Inter-Korean Relations and the North Korean Nuclear Crisis
Readings: South Korea Since 1980 Ch. 7; South Korea’s Rise Ch. 3
Discussion 9: Why do you think North Korea developed nuclear weapons? Do you think
North Korea’s nuclear disarmament is possible?
- Week 13 (4/18-24) South Korea’s Relations with China
Readings: South Korea Since 1980 Ch. 8; South Korea’s Rise Ch. 5

Discussion 10: Briefly describe the evolution of the relationship between South Korea and China. How do you think the US-China trade dispute will affect the Korea-China relationship?

Week 14 (4/25-5/4) **No Discussion: Research Paper Due at 11:59 PM on May 4**

Week 15 (5/5-11) South Korea's Relations with Russia, EU, and Developing World
Readings: South Korea's Rise Ch. Ch. 5, 7, 9
Discussion 11: Briefly describe how South Korea's economic development affected its foreign policies toward developing countries?

Week 16 (5/12-18): **Final Exam (Due at 11:59 PM on May 18)**—You can take the final exam at any time before the deadline.