

# Soc.255-100 Asian Culture (Spring, 2010)

## “Korean Society and Culture”

TuTh 11:30-12:45

Lecture Room: 225

Prof. Hong Joon Yoo, Ph.D. (Sociology), SungKyunKwan Univ. Seoul, KOREA

Office Hour by appointment

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### Course Description:

This is a basic/intermediate level sociology course which aims to give students a comprehensive understanding of Korean society and Culture. It is developed to provide a basic introduction to some of the issues that are central in understanding present-day Korean society. The course will begin with an overview of the geographic setting, historical background, and cultural traits of Korea. During the first few weeks of the semester, students will learn basic information about the development of Korean society mainly through lectures. Some video-tapes would be shown in class.

The focus of the course will be on contemporary Korean society. In particular, we will examine social changes including changes in politics and economy. The course will conclude with the reunification issue and the future of Korea. Major themes which will be covered include The Emergence of Modern Korea, Social Change in Politics and Economy, Social Institutions, and The Future of Korea.

Generally, the course rhythm will be; On Tuesday, Lecture and preliminary discussion on the week's topic & On Thursday, student presentations and additional discussions.

### Course Requirements and Grading:

There will be one mid-term exam(35%) and one final exam(35%). These two non-cumulative essay exams should be taken by all students. A week prior to the exam, students will get tips for it.

The course also requires in-class presentation of the reading assignments once or twice a semester per student(15%). Those who make presentation are asked to prepare at least 20 minutes length of summary file with Power Point. There is a requirement of a short essay(5%) at the end of the term. Grades will be based on the above criteria but consideration will be also given to the quality of the discussions for the class

participation and attendance(10%). All students are expected to read the assigned materials and/or get info via internet about the subject to be taught prior to each class.

### **Course Schedule and Reading Lists:**

\* Main Texts:

1. Steinberg, David. 1989. *The Republic of Korea*. Westview Press. (abbrev. **MT1**)
- \* 2. Hyuk-Rae Kim and Bok Song (eds.) 2007. *Modern Korean Society: Its Development and Prospects*. (abbrev. **MT2**)
3. Korea Herald (ed). 2007. *Insight into Korea*. (abbrev. **MT3**)
4. Korea Herald (ed). 2008. *Social Change in Korea*. (abbrev. **MT4**)

**Week 1(Jan. 12/14)> Class Orientation**

**Presentation Arrangement & Sitting Chart**

### **Part I. The Emergence of Modern Korea**

**Week 2(Jan. 19/21)> Land, People and Early History of Korea**

1. MT1. Ch.1 "Geography as Destiny"
2. MT1. Ch.2 "Land and People"
3. MT1. Ch.3 "Origins and Early History of Korean People"
4. MT1. Ch.4 "The Flowering and Decline of Traditional Korea"

**Week 3(Jan. 26/28)> Japanese Annexation & Korean War**

1. MT1. Ch.5 "The Japanese Colonial Period"
2. MT1. part of Ch.6  
@ Videos on Korean War & Escape from NK

**Week 4(Feb. 2/4)> Korean Characteristics comparing with China and Japan**

1. lecture (w/ Lee cartoon)

### **Part II. Social Change in Politics and Economy**

**Week 5(Feb. 9/11)> Nature of Politics in Korea**

1. MT1. Ch.6 "The Republic of Korea"
2. MT1. Ch.8 "The Nature of Politics and Administration in Korea"

- 3. MT2. Ch.2 "Regionalism and National Networks"
- \* 4. MT3. (p.8~) "Counting the blessings of demographic politics"
- \* (5) MT3. (p.16~) "Civil society powers political progress in Korea"

**Week 6(Feb. 16/18)> Economic Development**

- 1. MT1. Ch.10 "The Economic Development of Korea: 1953-1986"
- 2. MT2. Ch.5 "Economic Governance"
- 3. MT4. (p.282~) "The transformation of Korea Occupations" (by Prof. Yoo)

**Week 7(Feb. 23/25)> Economic Crisis and Reform**

- 1. MT2. Ch.6 "From Take-offs to Drop-offs?: Postwar Economic Development and Industrialization"
- \* 2. MT3. (p.110~) "Korea stands firm 10 years after Asian crisis"
- \* (3) MT3. (p.118~) "East Asia after the financial crisis"
- \* 4. MT3. (p.128~) "Korean economy needs new playbook for growth"  
@ Video on Economic Crisis in 1997

**Week 8(Mar. 2)> \*\*\* Mid-Term Exam (no class on Mar.4)\*\*\***

**Week 9(Mar. 9/11)> Spring Break (No classes)**

**Part III. Social Institutions and Social Change**

**Week 10(Mar. 16/18)> Class and Stratification**

- 1. MT2. Ch.3 "The Korean Stratification System: Continuity and Change"
- 2. MT2. Ch.4 "Inequality and Class Reproduction in Everyday Life"
- \* (3) MT3. (p.241~) "Labor movement in Korea losing steam"
- \* 4. MT3. (p.252~) "The forces at work that create polarization"
- \* 5. MT3. (p.261~) "Which way forward for Korea's welfare state?"

**Week 11 (Mar. 23/25)> Family and Women**

- 1. MT2. Ch.7. "Family, Gender, and Sexual Inequality"
- \* 2. MT3. (p.204~) "The rise of women in Korea: gains and obstacles"
- \* (3) MT4. (p.157~) "Changing family and women in the ubiquitous age"
- \* 4. MT4. (p.167~) "More gender equality, but women still held back"
- \* 5. MT4. (p.175~) "Dual earners call for family-friendly society"

**Week 12(Mar. 30/Apr. 1)> Population and Urbanization**

1. MT2. Ch.8 "Population Changes and Urbanization"
- \* 2. MT3. (p.190~) "Implications of demographic changes in Korea"
- \* 3. MT3. (p.229~) "The many challenges of urbanization in Korea"
- \* (4) MT4. (p.52~) "Seoul: A magnet for power, wealth, and population"
- \* 5. MT4. (p.62~) "Changing rural communities"

**Week 13(Apr. 6/8)> Korean Culture, Education and Religion**

1. MT1. Ch.7 "Korean Society and Culture"
- \* 2. MT3. (p.214~) "Korean education needs fundamental reform"
- \* (3) MT3. (p.222~) "Globalization of Korean higher education"
- \* 4. MT3. (p.303~) "Korea's religious traditions: analytical overview"
- \* (5) MT3. (p.312~) "Transformation of religion in modern Korea"

**Week 14(Apr. 13/15)> Social Change**

1. MT2. Ch.1 "The Contour of Modern Korean Society"
- \* 2. MT4. (p.26~/34~) "Social change in Korea & main driving forces"
- \* (3) MT3. (p.26~) "20 years of 'NGO revolution' reshapes society"
- \* 4. MT3. (p.36~) "Korea faces challenges of multiethnic society"
- \* 5. MT3. (p.272~) "Korean pop culture spreads beyond Asia"

**Part IV. Future of Korea**

**Week 15(Apr. 20/22)> The Reunification Issue & Future of Korea**

1. MT2. Ch.11 "Division, War, and Reunification"
- \* 2. MT3. (p.80~) "Inter-Korean relations and Seoul-Washington ties"
- \* 3. MT3. (p.72~) "Time to debate Korea's future strategic directions"
- \* (4) MT3. (p.154~) "Capitalism in Korea: A model for new millennium"  
@ video on Korea's past & future

**Week 16(Apr. 27/29)> No Classes (\* April 26; last day of classes)**

**Week 17(May 4)> \*\*\* Final Exam \*\*\***