

# (IS2505-00) Korean Politics and Economy

Kyung Hee University  
Spring 2023  
Tue/Thu. 12:00-13:15.

**YeonKyung Jeong**

**Email:** ykjeong@khu.ac.kr. (I do not read e-campus messages. Please send me an email if you need to.)

**Office hours:** By appointment only

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## Course Description

This course aims to provide students with in-depth understanding of contemporary Korean politics. Based on theories from political science, students will explore the major issues in South and North Korean politics and economy. The course is divided into five sections. Section one explores the political legacies of democratic transition in South Korea. The second section will introduce Korean political institutions and processes including Korean presidentialism, electoral system, parties and legislative politics. The third section will examine the major concepts and issues which help students understand the political culture and the civil society in South Korea. Section four considers the causes and consequences of economic development and crisis in South Korea. In the final section of the course, students will broaden their understanding of North Korean politics.

## Course Requirements

- **Attendance (10%):** Attendance is mandatory. Three absences are allowed without penalty. Students with more than three absences will get ZERO point for attendance.
- **Presentation and report (20%):** Students will make a group presentation (randomly assigned groups of 3-4) and write a report on it (no more than 5 pages). Basically, students will analyze one of the current political events in South Korea they choose. More details on presentation will be provided once the course registration is finalized.
- **Midterm Exam (30%):** Thu, April 27
- **Final Exam (40%):** Tue, June 20
- **Graduate students** are allowed to substitute a research paper for the final exam. In this case, students should e-mail instructor before Thursday, March 16th to discuss on the topic of the paper.

## Exam Policy

The in-class midterm exam is scheduled for Thursday, April 27th. The in-class final exam is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20th. The exam dates are firm. The exams are closed book and closed note. No electronic devices are allowed during the exam. There are no make-up exams. If you miss one of the exams for a legitimate reason (e.g. medical emergency) AND when you let me know about your absence before missing the exam, your score on another exam that you could take will count double. I may require supporting documentation (e.g. a doctor's note). Otherwise, you will fail the course.

## Course Schedule

DATE	TOPIC
(W1) March 2	Course introduction
(W2) March 7 and 9	Democratic transition and consolidation
(W3) March 14 and 16	Presidentialism
(W4) March 21 and 24	Electoral rules
(W5) March 28 and 30	Political parties
(W6) April 4 and 6	Legislative politics
(W7) April 11 and 13	Ideologies and political attitudes
(W8) April 18 and 20	Nationalism and Regionalism
(W9) April 25	Review or TBD
<b>April 27</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
(W10) May 2 and 4	Civil Society
(W11) May 9 and May 11	Immigration and multiculturalism
(W12) May 16 and 18	Economic development and crisis
(W13) May 23 and 25	Corruption and Inequality
(W14) May 30 and June 1	North Korea 1
<b>June 6</b>	<b>No class (현충일 Memorial Day)</b>
(W15) June 8	North Korea 2
(W16) June 15	Review or TBD
<b>June 20</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>

## Course Materials

All course materials will be uploaded to e-campus.

\* = required.

## **Week 1: Course Introduction**

**Thursday, March 2**

Greetings and course introduction

## **Week 2: Political Legacies and Democracy**

**Tuesday, March 7**

**Thursday March 9**

\*Heo, Uk, and Terence Roehrig. "From Dictatorship to Democracy" *South Korea since 1980*. Cambridge University Press, 2010. Ch.2.

\*Shin, Doh Chull. "Mass politics, public opinion, and democracy in Korea." In Kim, Samuel S., ed. *Korea's democratization*. Cambridge University Press, 2003. Ch.2.

Huntington, Samuel P. "Democracy's third wave" *Journal of democracy* 2(2) (1991): 12-34.

Schedler, Andreas. "What is democratic consolidation?." *Journal of democracy* 9.2 (1998): 91-107.

## **Week 3: Presidentialism**

**Tuesday, March 14**

**Thursday, March 16**

\*Asaba, Yuki. "Presidentialism in Korea: A Strong President and a Weak Government." In Kasuya, Yuko, ed. *Presidents, Assemblies and Policy-Making in Asia*. Springer, 2013. Ch.3.

\*Mobrand, Erik. "South Korea: Presidentialism in historical and sociological perspective." In *Presidentialism and Democracy in East and Southeast Asia*. Routledge, 2023. 20-39. Ch.2.

Linz, Juan J. "The perils of presidentialism." *Journal of democracy* 1.1 (1990): 51-69.

## **Week 4: Electoral Rules**

**Tuesday, March 21**

**Thursday, March 23**

\*Park, Chan Wook. “Elections in Democratizing Korea.” In Hsieh, John Fuh-sheng, and David Newman, eds. *How Asia Votes*. Chatham House Publishers, 2002. Ch.6

\*Institute for Korean Democracy, “The 21st general election and the effectiveness of the quasi mixed-member proportional representation election system” In *Korean Democracy Annual Report*, pp.43-48.

Powell, G. Bingham. “Constitutional Designs as Vision of Majoritarian or Proportional Democracy.”. In Powell, G. Bingham. *Elections as instruments of democracy: Majoritarian and proportional visions*. Yale University Press, 2000. Ch.2.

## **Week 5: Political Parties**

**Tuesday, March 28**

**Thursday, March 30**

\*Kim, Jiyeon. “The Party System in Korea and Identity Politics.” In Diamond, Larry, and Gi-Wook Shin, eds. *New challenges for maturing democracies in Korea and Taiwan*. Stanford University Press, 2014. Ch. 2.

\*Lee, Jung bock. “The Political Parties of Korea.” In Kil, Soong Hoom, and Chung-in Moon, eds. *Understanding Korean politics: an introduction*. State University of New York Press, 2010.

Arend Lijphart, “Party Systems: Two Party and Multi-Party Patterns” In *Patterns of Democracy*, New Haven: Yale UP, 1999. Chapter 5.

## **Week 6: Legislative Politics**

**Tuesday, April 4**

**Thursday, April 6**

\*Park, Chan Wook. “The national assembly of the Republic of Korea.” *The Journal of Legislative Studies* 4.4 (1998): 66-82.

\*Moon, Woojin. ”The Executive-legislative Relationship.” *Korean Political Science Re-*

view. (2020).

## **Week 7: Ideologies and political attitudes**

**Tuesday, April 11**

**Thursday, April 13**

\*Choi, Jang-Jip. "The frailty of liberalism and its political consequences in democratized Korea." *The Journal of Asiatic Studies* 52.3 (2009): 252-272.

\*Chae, Haesook, and Steven Kim. "Conservatives and progressives in South Korea." *Washington Quarterly* 31.4 (2008): 77-95.

Kang, Won-Taek. "How ideology divides generations: The 2002 and 2004 South Korean elections." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 41, no. 2 (2008): 461-480.

Kwon, Hyeok Yong. "Economic perceptions and electoral choice in South Korea: the case of the 2007 presidential election." *The Pacific Review* 23, no. 2 (2010): 183-201.

## **Week 8: Regionalism**

**Tuesday, April 18**

**Thursday, April 20**

\*Hochul, Sonn. "Regional cleavage in Korean politics and elections." *Korea Journal* 43.2 (2003): 32-54.

\*Hahn, Kyu S., Jihye Lee, Inho Won, Seulgi Jang, and Joonwhan Lee. "Is Regional Animus in Decline in Korea? A Test of the Generational Difference and Geographical Mobility Hypothesis." *Pacific Affairs* 90, no. 3 (2017): 505-533.

## **Week 9: Midterm Week**

## **Week 10: Civil Society**

**Tuesday, May 2**

**Thursday, May 4**

\*Oh, Jennifer S. "Strong state and strong civil society in contemporary South Korea." *Asian Survey* 52, no. 3 (2012): 528-549.

\*Shin, Gi-Wook, and Rennie J. Moon. "South Korea after impeachment." *Journal of Democracy* 28.4 (2017): 117-131.

## **Week 11: Immigration and Multiculturalism**

**Tuesday, May 9**

**Thursday, May 11**

\*Moon, Katharine H.S.. "South Korea's Demographic Changes and Their Political Impact." *East Asia Policy Paper* 6. The Brookings Institute. 2015.

\*Watson, Iain. "Paradoxical Multiculturalism in South Korea." *Asian Politics Policy* 4.2 (2012): 233-258.

## **Week 12: Economic development and crisis**

**Tuesday, May 16**

**Thursday, May 18**

\*Rodrik, Dani. "Getting interventions right: how South Korea and Taiwan grew rich." *Economic policy* 10.20 (1995): 53-107.

\*Heo, Uk, and Sunwoong Kim. "Financial crisis in South Korea: Failure of the government-led development paradigm." *Asian Survey* 40.3 (2000): 492-507.

Minns, John. "Of miracles and models: the rise and decline of the developmental state in South Korea." *Third world quarterly* 22.6 (2001): 1025-1043.

## **Week 13: Corruption and Inequality**

**Tuesday, May 23**

**Thursday, May 25**

\*Kang, David C. "Bad loans to good friends: money politics and the developmental state in South Korea." *International organization* 56.1 (2002): 177-207.

\*Chi, Eunju, Yangho Rhee, and Hyeok Yong Kwon. "Inequality and political trust in Korea." *Korea Observer* 44.2 (2013): 199.

Lee, Sook Jong. "The politics of chaebol reform in Korea: social cleavage and new financial rules." *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 38.3 (2008): 439-452.

## **Week 14: North Korea 1**

**Tuesday, May 30**

**Thursday, June 1**

\*Freedom House Country Report 2021: North Korea

\*Hwang, Ildo. “Foreign Policy of Kim Jong Un’s 10 Years: Relentless Maneuvering among Options.” *International Journal of Korean Unification Studies* 30.2 (2021).

\*Haggard, Stephen, Marcus Noland, and Erik Weeks. “Markets and famine in North Korea.” *Global Asia* 3.2 (2008): 32-38.

## **Week 15: North Korea 2**

**Tuesday June 6: No Class**

**Thursday, June 8**

\*Haggard, Stephan, and Marcus Noland. “Economic Crime and Punishment in North Korea.” *Political Science Quarterly* 127, no. 4 (2012): 659-683.

\*Cohen, Roberta. “Human Rights And Humanitarian Planning For Crisis In North Korea.” *International Journal of Korean Studies* (2015).

## **Week 16: Final Week**