

## Syllabus (Unofficial)<sup>1</sup>

Instructor	Year	Semester	Course Number	Course Title	Section
Richard W. Shannon	2020	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	KS 90143	North Korea Studies I: Society, Culture and Politics	001
<p>Instructor's contact information: <a href="mailto:rshannon@pusan.ac.kr">rshannon@pusan.ac.kr</a>; tel. 051-510-3613. Office Hours: to be announced (TBA). Office Location: Seong Hak Kwan 613. Research Assistant (RA) name and contact information: TBA.</p>					
<p>1. Course Objectives and Description</p> <p>A) Course Objectives</p> <p>The goals for this course are to: 1) to provide graduate students in South Korea with an overview of the study of North Korea's contemporary society, culture and politics; 2) to provide students who are non-native English speakers with this knowledge through the medium of the English language, allowing students to improve their skills in English speaking, reading, writing and listening as they learn about the subject; 3) to allow students to deepen their knowledge about North Korea by exposing them to several issues of controversy, and allowing them to ask questions and debate what these issues mean, orally and in writing; and 4) to expose students to diverse international studies perspectives on North Korea by having them complete readings from different disciplines and sources, including political science, journalism, biography and graphic literature.</p> <p>B) Course Description</p> <p>Internationally, North Korea is in the news more often than South Korea. International images of North Korea are dominated by ominous events, including frequent news about the launches of illegal rockets, nuclear explosions, loud threats against South Korea and its allies, missile launches against South Korean targets, horrific mass starvation and prison camps in the north, foreigners being kidnapped or held against their will, and North Korea as a harsh society filled with brainwashed, tightly controlled people. What is North Korea really like? How should we make sense of this very mysterious, baffling nation? To explore these questions, themes examined in this course include the history of North Korean society since the late 1940s; society, culture, and daily life; domestic politics and society; North Korea's foreign relations and how foreign nations respond; the economic system; insider and outsider accounts of life in the North; and speculations about North Korea's future. Assignments may include two short papers and a final exam on the last third of the readings. We may also watch film excerpts and have several guest speakers, as we are able.</p> <p>2. Required Textbooks, Readings</p> <p>A packet of required chapters, readings and articles may be distributed in class or made available for purchase or download. Or students may be able to purchase certain books/readings on their own.</p> <p>3. Requirements and Grading</p> <p>Attendance: 10%. Active Oral Participation and Use of English Only: 10%. Take Home Papers (2): 50%. Final Examination: 30%. Extra Credit Assignment: 10% (optional).</p>					

<sup>1</sup> The "Official Syllabus" for the course will be distributed in class on the first day.

Note: full details about the requirements, assignments and policies for the course will be distributed at the first class. They are subject to slight change, according to the needs of the class. Due to the Coronavirus, we may meet online or in person with social distancing, as safe and appropriate.

#### 4. Schedule

Note: The schedule is subject to change according to the conditions of the course. Possible assignments, exams and due dates are also subject to change, as needed.

Week No.	Topics and Activities	Assignments & Other Instructions
Week 1	Introduction to the Course	None
Week 2	UNIT 1A: History of North Korean Society, 1945-1980s	Assigned reading, handouts and discussion.
Week 3	UNIT 1B: History of North Korean Society, 1945-1980s	Assigned reading, handouts and discussion.
Week 4	UNIT 2: North Korean Society, 1990-mid-2000s: Overview	Assigned reading, handouts and discussion.
Week 5	UNIT 3A: Society and Culture 1: The Capital City, Social Structure, Daily Life	Assigned reading, handouts and discussion.
Week 6	UNIT 3B: Society and Culture 2: Family Life, Education, Arts and Media <b>-Distribute Take Home No. 1 Paper Assignment (on Units 1A-3B)</b>	Assigned reading, handouts and discussion.
Week 7	UNIT 4A: Domestic Politics 1: Political Culture in Daily Life, Patriotism and Government Propaganda, Domestic Surveillance (170-180)	-Assigned reading, handouts and discussion. -Work on Take Home Paper No. 1
Week 8	-UNIT 4B: Domestic Politics 2: Domestic Surveillance (180-189), Politics and Society in Practice, The "Failure" of North Korean Stalinism <b>-Take Home Paper No. 1 due.</b>	Assigned reading, handouts and discussion.
Week 9	UNIT 5A: Foreign Relations 1: North Korea's Foreign Relations: Survival Diplomacy; Foreign Affairs 1960s to 2000s	Assigned reading, handouts and discussion.
Week 10	UNIT 5B: Foreign Relations 2: Espionage and State-Sponsored Crime; North Koreans Legally Abroad, Foreigners in North Korea; North Koreans Abroad: Defectors <b>-Distribute Take Home Paper No. 2 Assignment (on Units 4A-5C)</b>	Assigned reading, handouts and discussion.
Week 11	UNIT 5C: Foreign Relations 3: Response of South Korea and Foreign Nations to North Korea	Assigned reading, handouts and discussion. -Work on Take Home Paper No. 2

Week 12	UNIT 6A: Economic System and Public Infrastructure: The Economic System, Current Economic Reforms, Transportation	-Assigned reading, handouts and discussion. -Work on Take Home Paper No. 2
Week 13	UNIT 6B: Domestic Survival Strategies: North Korean Economy and Society <b>-Take Home Paper No. 2 due.</b>	Assigned reading, handouts and discussion.
Week 14	UNIT 7: Life at the Bottom, at the Top, and as an Expatriate: Excerpts from Harden's <i>Escape from Camp 14</i> ; Kim's <i>Without You, There is No Us</i> ; Delisle's <i>Pyongyang: A Journey in North Korea</i> . <b>-Distribute review sheet for Final Exam.</b>	Assigned reading, handouts and discussion.
Week 15	UNIT 8: North Korea's Future and Conclusions	Assigned reading, handouts and discussion.
Week 16	Final Exam Week <b>Final Exam (on Units 6A to 8 only)</b>	Study for Final Exam (Readings, Units 6A to 8).
<p>5. References A full list of the references for the course will be passed out in the Official Syllabus on the first day of the class.</p>		