

Instructor : Youngshik Daniel Bong

Professor Youngshik Daniel Bong is a research fellow at Yonsei university Institute for North Korean Studies. He worked as a senior research fellow at the at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in Seoul, Korea. Before joining the Asan Institute, Dr. Bong was an assistant professor at American University` s School of International Service in Washington D.C. from 2007 to 2010. Dr. Bong was also a Freeman post-doctoral fellow at Wellesley College and Assistant Professor of Korean Studies at Williams College in Massachusetts. His research is focused on the interplay between nationalism and globalization on security issues including historical and territorial disputes in Asia, anti-Americanism, the U.S.-Korea Alliance and Korean politics, North and South.

Bong holds Ph.D. and an M.A. in political science from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A from Yonsei University.

Title: North Korea and the World: Issues, Perceptions and Realities

Week 1: Politics and Foreign Relations

Course Description:

How should we view North Korea (Democratic People`s Republic of Korea: DPRK)? In order to answer this question, we need to study the history of the North Korean regime and the establishment of its political system and ideology. In week 1, this course will review political and military structure, and its foreign policy and relations, so that we can not only figure out North Korea`s past and present, but also predict its future from the historical-structural perspective. Hereditary succession of power and current Kim Jong-un regime will be explained by the history and current politico-military system. This course also will cover North Korea`s foreign policy and relations such as US-DPRK relations, China-DPRK relations, relations with the EU and other countries.

Course Materials:

2014 Understanding North Korea (The Institute for Unification Education, 2014) You can download the online version of the book at <https://www.uniedu.go.kr/uniedu/home/pds/pdsatcl/view.do?mid=SM00000170> HYPERLINK "https://www.uniedu.go.kr/uniedu/home/pds/pdsatcl/view.do?mid=SM00000170&mid=SM00000170%2CSM00000170&limit=21&page=1&id=19426&ty=&vw=img&odr=news" HYPERLINK

Week 2: Society and Economy

Course Description:

Existing research on North Korea focuses overwhelmingly on "hard security", i.e., national security and foreign policies. North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile threats have been thoroughly analyzed, as well as the regime's conventional threats. The regime's leadership dynamics are dissected using qualitative methodology. Yet such approaches have not sufficiently addressed all important questions of how stable the regime is and what motivates the regime's policy choices. Instead, new approaches that involve multi-faceted, data-driven analyses of North Korea's economy and society have given policymakers and researchers fresh insights into the reclusive country.

In week 2, this course aims to introduce students to the latest developments in the field that uses remote sensing information, public health data, and mirror trade statistics from China.

Course Materials: There is no required textbook for this section. Relevant research materials will be provided in class.

Week 3: Human Rights and National Unification

Course Description:

There is more awareness and concern among the international community than ever before about the human rights violations committed in North Korea, for example, evidenced by the establishment of a UN Commission of Inquiry (CoI). However, so far, the international community has not been able to find a clear solution to the human rights problems in North Korea. In fact, without substantial changes made by the North Korean regime itself, there is very little that the international community can do to improve the human rights condition of the North Korean people.

In week 3, this course will review major human rights issues in North Korea and what will be an appropriate approach to enhance human rights situation in North Korea either at international, regional or domestic level. It also examines the persistent and changing attitudes of South Korean public toward the issue of reunification of the two Korea.

Course Materials:

There is no required textbook for this section. Relevant research materials will be provided in class.