

Kyung Hee University
Global Collaborative 2019 Summer Program
North Korea and the World: Issues, Perceptions, and Realities

Instructor: Dr. 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 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.

Instructor: Dr. Jung-Min Mina Lee

Professor Jung-Min Mina Lee is a visiting professor at the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Department at Duke University, where she teaches courses on Korean Popular Music and Korean Politics & Society. Her research is centered around the U.S. military influence on the formation of popular music in Korea, cultural Cold War, the manifestation of national identity in modern art music in Korea, and propaganda music of South and North Korea. Professor Lee earned her Ph.D. and M.A. in musicology from Duke University and B.A. in economics from Northwestern University.

Course material:

Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2005) *Hereafter BC*

Don Oberdorfer and Robert Carlin, *The Two Koreas: A Contemporary History* (New York: Basic Books, 2014) *Hereafter DO*

Grade distribution:

Attendance and Participation 30%

Final exam 70%

Attendance and active participation in each class are critical for succeeding in this course. More than one unexcused absence will result in a lowered grade.

The final exam will take place on the last day of class. The exam will mostly consist of short responses from questions from the lectures; we will discuss the format more in detail during the last week.

Course schedule (class schedule is subject to change)

Week 1: Politics and Foreign Relations

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

Reading assignment: BC Chapters 1-5

- Class 1. The End of the Empire - *Prof. Lee; BC Chapter 2*
- Class 2. Nationalism and National Identity in Korea - *Prof. Bong; BC Chapter 1*
- Class 3. Cultural Policies and Popular Music during the Japanese Colonial Era - *Prof. Lee; BC Chapter 3*
- Class 4. The Making of North Korea (1): The Pacific War and the National Division - *Prof. Bong; BC Chapter 2*
- Class 5. The Making of North Korea (2): The Korean War - *Prof. Bong; BC Chapters 4-5*

Week 2: The Rise of Two Koreas

During the second week, the course will investigate how music and culture functioned as instruments of colonial and social control during the first half of the twentieth century in Korea. We will also trace different musical trends that surfaced as symptoms of rapid political and social changes as well as ideological divisions in Korea.

Reading assignment: BC Chapter 6, DO Chapters 1-10 (Chapters 3 and 4 optional)

- Class 6. Music Before, During, and After World War II – *Prof. Lee; BC Chapter 5*
- Class 7. The Leadership and the *Juche* Ideology – *Prof. Bong; BC Chapter 6*
- Class 8. Cultural Cold War and Musical Propaganda of North Korea – *Prof. Lee; DO Chapters 1-2 (Chapters 3 and 4 optional)*
- Class 9. Cultural Policy in South Korea during the Cold War – *Prof. Lee; DO Chapters 5-7*
- Class 10. Inter-Korean Relations, Human Rights, and Unification – *Prof. Bong; DO Chapters 8-10*

Week 3: Propaganda and popular culture of South and North Korea

In week 3, we will investigate how popular culture was used for political ends beyond the Cold War era. For example, music has served as a central tool in promoting the *Juche* ideology in North Korea. In South Korea, too, popular music was politically inflicted to varying degrees throughout the latter half of the twentieth century. The course will conclude by examining the most prominent phenomenon in Korea's current cultural

scene, K-pop, to understand its political potentialities.

Reading assignment: DO Chapters 11-14; BC Chapters 7-8

- Class 11. Weapons of Mass Destruction of North Korea – *Prof. Bong; DO Chapters 11-14*
- Class 12. Democratization, Economic Development, and Nationalism in South Korea – *Prof. Lee; DO Chapter 15, BC Chapter 7*
- Class 13. Political economy of *Hallyu*: K-pop as national soft power – *Prof. Lee; Chapters; BC Chapter 8*
- Class 14. *Hallyu* in South and North Korea; Wrap up – *Prof. Lee; Reading TBD*
- Class 15. Final Exam (In-class, open-book, essay)