

Syllabus (2019–Summer)

Course Title	North Korean Society and Culture	Sogang International Program
Instructor	Name David Shuster	E-mail: david.shuster@post.harvard.edu

1. Course Description

An intensive undergraduate seminar course on North Korean history, society, culture, and international relations. Students will be introduced to major scholarship and issues in North Korean studies. No prior knowledge of Korea or Korean language is required to take this course.

2. Course Format

Lecture	Discussion/Presentation	Experiment/Practicum	Field Study	Other
30%	50%	%		20%

This course uses a combination of lectures, film screenings, and group discussions. For their midterm evaluation, students will submit working bibliography papers. A review of a book from a list approved by the instructor is due at the end.

3. Course Objectives

The course aims to develop students' critical thinking, textual and visual analysis, academic writing, and argumentation skills.

4. Evaluation System

Midterm Exam	Final Exam	Quizzes	Presentati on	Projects	Assignment s	Participati on	Other
20%	40%	%	%	%	%	30%	10%

Class participation - 30%

Midterm bibliography paper - 20%

Film reviews (x2) - 10%

Final book review - 40%

I. Course Materials and Additional Readings

1. Required Materials

A course reader will be made available at the International Sogang Program office. Any additional course materials will be distributed in class in PDF.

II. Course Schedule

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 1	07/02	LECTURE: Revolution and Postcolonial Modernity
Day 2	07/03	READINGS: "Constructing Culture" (Armstrong), "Domestic Revolution" (Kang)
Day 3	07/04	LECTURE: The Korean War & the Cold War
Day 4	07/08	FILM: Crossing the Line (Daniel Gordon, 2006) / READING: "The Korean War "(Cumings)
Day 5	07/09	LECTURE: Postwar Reconstruction / READING: "North Koreans at the Movies" (Mironenko)
Day 6	07/10	READING: "Let's Go to the Moon" (Zur)

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 7	07/11	LECTURE: The 1960s & 1970s / READING: "Aquariums of Pyongyang" (Kang)
Day 8	07/15	READING: "Human Rights" (Morris-Suzuki)
Day 9	07/16	LECTURE: Personality Cults in Modern History / READING: "The Barrel of a Gun" (Kwon & Chung)
Day 10	07/17	LECTURE: North Korea and the World / READING: "Breaking out" (Armstrong)
Day 11	07/18	READING: Soldiers on the Cultural Front--selections (Gabroussenko)
Day 12	07/22	FILM: Pulgasari (Shin Sang-ok, 1985) / READING: "Split Screen" (Chung)
Day 13	07/23	READING: "Let Morning Shine over Pyongyang" (Burnett)
Day 14	07/24	LECTURE: Contemporary Issues / READING: "Marketisation" (Smith)
Day 15	07/25	READING: "Korean Historical Tales (1)" / WRAP-UP

* The contents of this syllabus are not final—they may be updated.