

JSIS 469/569A
North Korean Society
Professor Sorensen
February 14, 2019

Paper Topics and Style Guidelines

Assignment: Pick a North Korean topic about which you would like to find out more information, and write a five to seven-page research paper explaining your topic and how it enhances your understanding of North Korea beyond the confines of the course. Your paper is due **Friday March 8th by 11:59 PM**. Your paper should be properly formatted and uploaded on Canvas.

You will be required to use at least five sources in your paper, but one of these sources can be from the readings for the course. Depending upon the topic you may use some web sources so long as these are respectable and representative of the topic in question. You might, for example, use official Foreign Ministry sites, or read on-line North Korean publications, or consult reputable foreign affairs websites such as Nautilus.com, but I won't accept, say, Wikipedia as one of your five sources.

It would be possible to write on North Korean cinema for those of you who have skill at analyzing cultural products. You would have to view at least two movies, and also read appropriate contextual literature, as well as cinema criticism in English to take this option. I would advise it only for those of you who have had courses in English, Comparative Literature, or literature courses in Asian Languages and Literature (i.e. not just language courses).

NB: Be sure to begin right away. While you may not have time to write right away, some topics will not have sources available in English, and you will want to know whether you can find the resources you need right away. I will be available during my office hours to assist you in finding resources.

Graduate Students: Your papers should have 6-10 sources, and be 7-10 pages long.

Style Sheet

- (1) The writing in the paper should be your own words. You may not download material from the internet and present it as your own (that is plagiarism).
- (2) Papers should be typed double-spaced with one-inch margins on either side.
- (3) Put your name and the title of the paper on a separate title sheet. Please don't use fancy

binders. They just make it difficult to stack the papers together.

(4) Your paper should have an introduction with a thesis that you support in following paragraphs using evidence and analysis. Devote at least one third of your paper to discussing the relationship of what you read to the concepts and institutions discussed in the course lecture and other readings. Try to attain a clear and unified point of view in your paper.

(5) Be sure to reference quotes and ideas taken from others, whether these are textbooks, your readings, the internet, or other sources. Anything not referenced is expected to be original. You may use any standard reference style—for example, footnoting as in the MLA style sheet, or references in parentheses as is done in social science writing. If you chose the latter style you must append a bibliography.

(6) Foreign words should be underlined or put in italics. Korean words should be rendered in the McCune-Resichauer System, Japanese in Hepburn and Chinese in Pinyin.

(7) Papers are graded on the clarity of your exposition of the content of your readings, skill with which you relate your readings to the course, and the care and quality of the writing.

(8) Quality of writing and clarity of thought are inseparable, so use some care in your writing. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, etc. will all be taken into consideration in grading the paper. Some specific things I look for in papers are listed below.

1. Do you have a title and a thesis sentence that announces the theme of your essay?
2. Do your introduction and conclusion stand in some logical relationship? That is, does the last paragraph conclude the thoughts introduced in the first paragraph?
3. Does each paragraph in your essay develop some major point that contributes to your overall argument?
4. Do you have examples or evidence for each judgment or generalization you make, or have you logically demonstrated why this generalization should be true?
5. Do you have a clear style with grammatical sentences, and proper use of historical and other words?
6. Did you proofread your paper to correct typos, errors of spelling and the like?