This course consists of three sections: JSIS A 448, ANTH 448, and JSIS A 584. There are no differences between JSIS A 448 and ANTH 448. Decide which section you want based on availability and whether you want Asian Studies or Anthropology credit for the course. JSIS A 584 is for students entering the graduate MA program in Korean Regional Studies. Graduate students in other programs should also take this course for graduate credit with my permission. JSIS A 584 has a different discussion section from JSIS A/ANTH 448, and substantial additional requirements to bring it up to graduate school level.

In this course we will study Korean society in the twentieth century, concentrating primarily on the period after World War II. No previous knowledge of Korea, or the Korean language, is assumed or required, though such knowledge may help you remember concepts more easily. As the course is taught at the 400 level, it is intended primarily for students in their last three years of study at UW who are capable of assimilating and synthesizing much material on their own. (Many freshmen have successfully taken this course, but not all freshmen have proved ready to independently assimilate material from readings, synthesize these materials with lecture, and write them down in essay exams.) The course has substantial historical content, but we will focus primarily on social science approaches to describing and accounting for the characteristics of Korean social organization. Students with personal experience of Korea will find, thus, that they must nevertheless study hard to master the ways in which social scientists analyze and do research on Korea, and they must be prepared to write essays demonstrating their mastery of this mode of analysis of Korean society. A main concern will be the description of, and explanation for, recent changes in Korean social organization. We will not emphasize historical events such as various presidential elections, or the Korean War, except in so far as these events can be seen as the cause or consequence of present-day Korean social structure.

The course is organized with two lectures a week. The second half of Thursday’s lecture will normally be reserved for discussion of the readings focusing on the discussion question listed for that week. Graduate students taking the JSIS A 584 will attend lectures Monday through Thursday, but have a separate discussion section, and slightly different readings. They should not attend the second half of Thursdays lecture. You can expect a little over 100 pages of reading a week. Students should take care to keep up with the readings and have completed each week’s readings by the Thursday discussion section. As class participation is part of your grade, attendance will be taken on Thursday.
The following books are required reading and are available at the University bookstore. Most are also available on Kindle, and *Journal of Korean Studies* is also available electronically through UW Library. They will also be on reserve at the East Asia Library (under JSIS A448).

- Vincent Brandt, *Affair with Korea: Memories of South Korea in the 1960s*. (Seattle: Center for Korea Studies, 2014)

Additional short readings will be available on the course web site. Additional materials, such as maps and handouts will also be available on the course web site ([http://faculty.washington.edu/sangok/JSISA448](http://faculty.washington.edu/sangok/JSISA448)). The URL is case sensitive, so make sure to put “JSISA” in caps. Grades will be based on performance on a midterm, a final (equal weight, all essay), and a research paper on a subject of your choice related to Korean society. Those students who are capable of integrating the class readings and lectures in well-organized essays will get the best grades. Participation in Thursday discussions will also form a small part of the grade. **The midterm is on Tuesday, November 3rd in class.** Make-ups will be given only for documented medical reasons, so plan to be there. Be sure to bring a blue book. **The paper is due on Wednesday, December 2nd in my mailbox in 411 Thomson Hall.** Late papers will be penalized, so plan ahead. Early papers are welcome. **The In-class final is on Tuesday, December 15, 10:30-12:20 in 325 Thomson.** As with the midterm make-ups were be given only for documented medical reasons **so do not plan to leave town before that time.**

Each Thursday you will be asked to turn in a 200-word summary of the assigned readings for that week, and be prepared to discuss a suggested study question. These taken together will account for 10% of your grade. (Summaries are due in class except for the week of the midterm when they will be due on Friday at 5:00 in my mailbox in 411 Thomson Hall). These summaries are part of your class section participation grade. For this reason I will not accept them by e-mail, late, or turned in by friends. (You will be allowed to drop two, so you will be responsible for a total of six weekly summaries). The midterm and final will be in-class essay exams worth 30% of your grade each. The paper will be worth 30%.
Syllabus

N. B. Starred (*) readings are recommended but not required (i.e. they will help you understand the subject, but won't specifically be tested)

Preweek: (October 1st): Introductory Material

Thursday: Why Study Korea? Origins, Topography, Climate, and History

Discussion Topic: Who are Korea’s neighbors? What is Korea’s relationship to them in terms of language, culture, history, and foreign relations? How should we understand foreign influence versus cultural creativity?

Reading (no summary due):
• Sorensen “South Korea: The Land and People” In An Introduction to Korean Culture, edited Koo and Nahm pp 17-37 (pdf on course website)

Week I: (October 6th and 8th) Traditional Family and Farming

Tuesday: Korea and America in the 1960s. Hospitality; adaptation and varieties of Korean village over the last fifty years; the household as unit of production and consumption.

Thursday: The notion of a corporate family, Stem family Cycle (Marriage, Inheritance, Partition, and Succession)

Discussion Topic: (Reading summary due)—Contrast families as units of production with modern families. How does the traditional male/female household division of labor relate to, formal and informal male and female sources of power and authority.

Reading:
• Brandt, chaps 1-6.

Week II: (October 13th and 15th): Folk Religion, Migration and Development

Tuesday: Folk religion and social psychology of the Korean Family

Thursday: Migration and Social Change in the 1970s and 1980s: Was it proletarianization?

Discussion topic (Reading summary due)—How did industrialization and modernization affect village life? Are any of these developments relevant for Korea today in the 2010s?
Reading:
- Brandt chaps 7-14;

Week III: (October 20th and 22nd): Militarized Modernity, Gender and Political Activism

Tuesday: Militarized Modernity, labor, and democratization

Thursday: Post-democratic activism

Discussion: (Reading summary due) What was specific to Korea’s modernization and industrialization in terms of process and gender. (Hint: think about what kinds of industry females and males have been the predominant labor force, and how they affects class and gender.)

Reading:
- Journal of Korean Studies Vol. 17 No. 2 (Jiyeon YKang 329-50, Nicholas Harkness 351-82)

Week IV: (October 27th and 29th) New Family, New Culture

Tuesday: New Family Patterns

Thursday: Gender and Consumption

Discussion: (no reading summary) Is the corporate family still relevant in urban Korea? How have demographic trends affected the family cycle? Have gender relations really changed, or not?
Reading:


**Week V: (November 3rd and 5th): Urbanization and Demographic Transition**

Tuesday: **In Class Midterm (bring blue book)**

Thursday: Urbanization, Demographic Transition, and Housing in Contemporary Korea

Discussion: (Reading summary due Friday) What does *Living on Your Own* tell us about contemporary Korean society and how it has changed?

Reading:

- Jesook Song, *Living on Your Own*, Introduction

**Week VI: (November 10th and 12th): Living on One’s Own**

Tuesday: The Decline of Militarized Modernity?

Thursday: Reinscription of Patriarchy?

Discussion topic: (Reading summary due Friday) Does neoliberal restructuring require the reinscription of patriarchy (as described by Song and by Kim), or does patriarchy come from other causes?

Reading:

- Yoonjung Kim, “Love and Money: Commercial Postpartum Care and the Reinscription of Patriarchy in Contemporary South Korea,” *Journal of Korean*
**Week VII: (November 17th and 19th): From Partisan State to Famine**

Tuesday: Building the Partisan State

Thursday: The Heyday of the Partisan State

Discussion Topic: Why did the North Korean people put up with repression without rebelling? (Alternative question: what did the North Korean regime seem to offer to its subjects that made them see a future?)

Reading:
- Hazel Smith: *North Korea, Introduction*, chaps 1 through 7

**Week VIII: (November 24th) Famine and Aftermath**

Tuesday: Famine and Marketization

Thursday: **Thanksgiving Holiday**

Discussion topic: How can anthropology contribute to understanding of a “rogue state”? What do you see for the North Korean future?

Reading: Hazel Smith, *North Korea*, chaps 8-13

**Week IX: (December 1st and 3rd): Film and Korean Culture**

Tuesday: Film Showing *Sŏp’yonje*

Wednesday: **Paper Due December 2nd**.

Thursday: Landscape, Modernity, and National Identity

Discussion topic: What are the themes of *Sŏp’yonje*? Why do you suppose the director Im Kwon Taek wanted to treat these themes specifically in 1993 (that is, knowing what you know about the transformations that Korean society was going through in the early 1990s, why did the themes of the film strike a chord in the Korean public)?

Reading: Kim, *Virtual Hallyu* *Introduction, Chapter 1*
Week X: (December 8th and 10th): Modernity, Cultural Imperialism, and Post-Modernity

Tuesday: Film Showing *Hyojadong Ibalsa* (The President’s Barber)

Thursday: Body, language, and power.

Discussion topic: is Kim justified in calling the Park regime fascist? How is this relevant to the themes of “The President’s Barber”—are the characteristics of the Park regime treated critically, ironically, or in some other manner in this film?

Reading:
- KIM, *Virtual Hallyu* Chapter 3, Chapter 8.
- (optional) *Virtual Hallyu*, Chapter 4

**FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15th, 10:30-12:20 Thomson 325.**