Instructor: Clark Sorensen  
Office: 421 Thomson Hall  
Office Hours: Tues 10:30-12:00, Thurs 3:30-4:30  
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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 graduate students in Korean Studies. Graduate students in other programs should also take this course for graduate credit. 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 The course has substantial historical content, but we will focus primarily on social science approaches to describing and accounting for the characteristics of Korean social organization.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 A 448).

- Clark W. Sorensen, *Over the Mountains are Mountains: Korean Peasant Households and their Adaptations to Rapid Industrialization*. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2013)

Additional short readings will be available on the course website. Additional materials, such as maps and handouts will also be available on the course website (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 1st 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, November 30th 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 13, 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 discussion a suggested study question. These taken together will account for 10% of your grade. Summaries are due Oct 6th, 13th, 18th, 27th, Nov 5th, 10th, 17th and Dec 10th 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. (There are eight weeks that I ask for a summary but 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%.

**Writing Resources:**

Jackson School Students can avail themselves of the services of the Political Science/Law, Societies, and Justice/Jackson School of International Studies Writing Center/Comparative History of Ideas in 111 Gowen Hall (Phone: 206-616-3354). You can drop in but it is better
to make appointments at pswrite@u.washington.edu

The Anthropology Writing & Research Center (AWRC) provides assistance and support with composition, rhetoric, and other writing skills to Anthropology undergraduate and graduate students. You can drop in Denny 423 or make an appointment. Further details about making appointments, AWRC hours, appointment length, and center policies can be found at the URL below. If you have any questions, feel free to email the AWRC at anthwrc@uw.edu.

Center Website: https://catalyst.uw.edu/workspace/anthwrc/33110/
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: (September 29th): 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 4th and 6th) Traditional Family and Farming

Tuesday: 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: Over the Mountains, Preface to the Paperback edition and chaps 1, 3 & 4. (Chapter 2 optional).

Week II: (October 11th and 13th): Lineage and Villages

Tuesday: Rural Development and the New Village Movement

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

Discussion topic (Reading summary due)—How would you apply lessons from South Korea’s rural development to a country that is currently predominantly peasant? Are there lessons for North Korea?

**Week III: (October 18th and 20th): Militarized Modernity, Gender and Political Activism**

Tuesday: Division, militarization, modernity

Thursday: Hegemonic notions of masculinity and femininity

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 this affects class and gender.)

Reading:
- Moon: Introduction, chaps 1-3

**Week IV: (October 25th and 27th) Decline of Militarized Modernity**

Tuesday: Conflicting subjectivities? North and South?

Thursday: Citizen consciousness and democracy.

Discussion: *(Reading summary due)* Why doesn’t Moon think the introduction of the category “citizen” is important? What older category does this contrast with? What forces does Moon argue are leading to the decline of militarized modernity?

Reading:
- Moon: chaps 4-6, Conclusion

**Week V: (November 1st and 3rd): 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

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**Week VI: (November 8th and 10th): Living on One’s Own**

Tuesday: Neoliberal restructuring?

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:

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**Week VII: (November 15th and 17th): From Partisan State to Famine**

Tuesday: Building the Partisan State

Thursday: The Heyday of the Partisan State
Discussion Topic: *(Reading summary due)* 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:
- Everard, Preface pp xv-xxiv, and Part III: The Nature of the DPRK Regime pp 163-204

**Week VIII: (November 22nd) Everyday Life in North Korea**

Tuesday: Famine and Marketization

Thursday: **Thanksgiving Holiday**

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

Reading: Everard, Chaps 1, 2, 3 pp 1-112.

**Week IX: (November 29th and December 1st): Korean Wave Pop Culture**

Tuesday: Why popular, why now?

Wednesday: **Paper Due November 30th.**

Thursday: Gender and K-pop

Discussion topic: *(Reading summary due)* Why is K-pop now popular around the world? In what parts of the world is it popular? How should we understand gender stereotyping in K-pop?

Reading:
- Youna Kim, Part II: pp 73-182
Week X: (December 6th and 8th): Media Imperialism, Soft Power, Hybridity

Tuesday: Korean Wave—Soft Power meets Media Imperialism

Thursday: Korean Wave as Intra-Asian Dialogue?

Discussion topic: How shall we interpret the influence of American cinema or phenomena like the Korean Wave? Is it cultural imperialism? Is it soft power? Is it Intra-Asian dialogue?

Reading:
- Youna Kim, Parts I & two chapters from Part III.
- Aaron Han Joon Magnan-Park, “Restoring the Transnational from the Abyss of Ethnonational Film Historiography: The Case of Chung Chang Wha,” Journal of Korean Studies 16(2): 249-84.

FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13th, 10:30-12:20, 325 Thomson.