

JSISA/ANTH 448A: Modern Korean Society
Professor Sorensen
December 1, 2022

2022 Take-home Final

Write one essay from each section of the exam (for a total of two essays) in well-argued and well- formed paragraphs. It is due on Canvas by **Tuesday, December 13th by 11:59PM**. (Early submissions will be gratefully received.) It is open book, and you have more than a week to work on it. All necessary information for the exam has been presented in lecture and reading. No outside reading is required or expected. Each answer should be typed and should be limited to about 500-1000 words (2-4 pages double- spaced). Be sure to cite the readings when appropriate giving author and page number in parentheses. Students able to synthesize readings with the lecture will do the best. You can cite lectures by title, date, or both.

I: Descriptive Essay. Using material from the readings and lecture write a well-organized essay describing one of the following phenomena or institutions in North or South Korea. Be sure to answer all parts of the question citing the readings and lecture.

- A. Describe how structural adjustment to “marketization by default” following the famine in North Korea has led to a “blurring of the distinction between state-owned and privately managed enterprises” (hybrid companies/pseudo-state enterprises) that have enabled North Korea to function economically despite comprehensive United Nations economic sanctions.
- B. Compare and contrast the different experiences of Filipina migrants in the three situations that Choo analyzes in her book: urban legal labor migrants, urban marriage migrants, and entertainer migrants. How can we assess the effects of structure versus individual agency in determining the situations of the migrants in each case (that is, make an assessment of how much agency the women have in each case, and then discuss the structural features that hinder/facilitate their exercise of agency).
- C. Describe how Koo sees education fitting into the stratification system of contemporary Korea. In light of the changes in the educational system due to the neoliberal reforms outlined by Sorensen, how would Abelman’s descriptions of neoliberal subjectivity of “self-management” (*chagi kwalli*) fit in? Would those worried about increasing social stratification in South Korea be satisfied with the notion of self-management? (Think of structure versus agency in this answer).

II: Interpretive Essay. This essay has no single right or wrong answer; I'm looking for a good argument rather than for a "right" answer. Thus, formulate a thesis, and then argue for it in well-organized paragraphs that give persuasive examples and evidence from the readings and lecture. Be sure to answer all parts of the question.

- A. Is South Korea becoming multicultural? Use Filipino/Filipina migrants as examples, and also consider ethnically mixed men in the Korean military (based on the Hyun Mee Kim essay). (You can also use other ethnic groups). Be sure to include your own definition of multicultural as part of your answer.

- B. Compare and contrast the three eye-witness accounts of North Korea—Abrahamian (*Being in North Korea*), Fyodor Tertitskiy, ("Exclusion and Privilege"), Sigley ("Sojourn in Paradise")—with the picture that Andrei Lankov paints based on archival research and defector interviews ("Organizational Life" and "Making Money in the State"). What could the eyewitnesses see that Lankov couldn't see? What did Abrahamian and other eyewitnesses miss that Lankov catches? Overall, how reliable do you think the eyewitness accounts are for understanding North Korea?