

SOC 358: Sociology of Korea

Fall 2017

CRN: 79585

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Instructor: Keith Scott
Email: keithgs@hawaii.edu
Class Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:30am – 11:45am
Class Room: Saunders 244
Office Hours: Thursdays, 12pm to 2pm, or by appointment
Instructor's Office: Saunders 211

Course Description: This course is designed to provide a general overview of the social, cultural, and political issues of contemporary South Korean society. It is roughly divided into two halves. The first portion of the class covers the great historical transformations Korea has witnessed throughout the 20th Century. This historical foundation will provide both a context for understanding the current social issues in Korea and a basis for understanding lingering historical conflicts that continue to the present day (i.e. decolonization and anti-Japanese sentiment, the “Comfort Women” issue, national division and the militarized 38th parallel, the struggle for democracy, etc.). The second half of the class deals with various social issues contemporary Korean society faces. While North Korea and North Korean society is briefly touched upon—particularly in the case of North Korean migrants in South Korea—the main focus of this class is on South Korean society. This class takes a multidisciplinary approach to the topic of Korean society, utilizing not only sociological research, but also literature, art, primary texts, and more.

Learning Objective: When students complete this course, they should be able to: 1) Describe and understand the major issues facing contemporary Korean society. 2) Apply sociological concepts and theories in order to understand the rapidly changing Korean society. 3) Understand and deconstruct the differing viewpoints and perspectives on Korean culture and social structure. 4) Evaluate persistent social issues in Korea as well as be able to identify emerging problems for Korean society in the coming decades. 5) Better understand the social forces that drive change in societies.

Requirements: In addition to attending each class and keeping up with the readings, students will be required to complete the following assignments:

- 1) *Reflection Papers:* Your reflection papers should discuss your thoughts on the readings and the class discussions for the preceding week. Your reflection papers should try to synthesize arguments and ideas presented either in the readings or in the class. Do not simply summarize the readings or lectures. A good idea would be to write your reflection papers around certain analytical questions that you think the

readings pose, or to bring up an issue or perspective that was not mentioned in class/readings. Please feel free to use the Reflection Papers to connect the topics and issues to your own interests, lived experience, prior knowledge from other courses, life in Hawai'i, etc. The papers are to be NO MORE THAN TWO PAGES, and they should be double-spaced, 12 font, and with 1 inch margins. Reflection papers must be submitted, either in hard copy to the instructor or to the Dropbox on Lualima, by the beginning of class on the date they are due. Papers received after the class has begun will be considered late.

- 2) *Mid-Term Exam*: The mid-term will be administered in-class on Thursday, October 12. The Mid-Term Exam will consist of short-answer essay questions on the topics covered in the first seven weeks of the class. There will be a review prior to the exam.
- 3) *Final Paper*: The final paper will be written on a Korea-related topic that has been approved by the instructor. The topics for the final paper can be chosen from one of the topics covered in the class, or students may select Korea-related topics not covered in the class (with the instructor's approval). Topics must be approved no later than November 16. Students must use one of the analytical frameworks discussed in the class to discuss their chosen topic. The final paper will be due in class on the final day of instruction, Thursday, December 7. Late papers will not be accepted. The final paper must be **6 to 8 pages**, and it must be in the format of double-spaced, 12 font, and 1 inch margins.
- 4) *Final Presentation*: Each student must make a brief (roughly 10 minutes max) presentation on the topic of her/his final paper.

Grades: The breakdown of the final grade is as follows:

Reflection Papers:	20%
Midterm:	30%
Final Paper:	30%
Presentation:	10%
Attendance:	10%

Readings: All the required readings are provided on Lualima. In addition, extra **non-required** readings will occasionally be provided, either in class or through Lualima.

In addition to the required readings, it is recommended that students stay up to date on current affairs in Korea. The following is a list of reliable English-language news sources on Korea:

The Korea Times	http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www2/index.asp
The Korea Herald	http://www.koreaherald.com/
Hankyoreh (left-leaning)	http://english.hani.co.kr/

Chosun Ilbo (right-leaning) <http://english.chosun.com/>
Dong-a Ilbo (center-right-leaning) <http://english.donga.com/>
Kyunghyang Shinmun (center-left-leaning) <http://english.khan.co.kr/>
Yonhap News (public-run news, SK equivalent of BBC)
<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/>
Arirang News (global Korean news) http://www.arirang.com/News/News_Index.asp

Plagiarism: The UH Mānoa Student Conduct Code provides the following definition of “plagiarism”: “Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or ‘drylabbing,’ which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms.” It is each student's responsibility to learn about plagiarism and how to avoid it. Ignorance of the rules is not a valid excuse. Plagiarism will result in an F for the course.

Kokua: Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I would be happy to work with you, and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

Class Schedule:

8/22 *Class Overview:* Introduction and Syllabus

8/24 *K-Pop:* How does K-Pop reflect Korean society? Korean culture? What is the role of K-Pop in a globalized society?

 Readings: Lie, John. 2012. “What is the K in K-pop?: South Korean Popular Music, the Culture Industry, and National Identity.” *Korea Observer* 43(3):pp.339-363

ASSIGNMENT 1: 2-page Reflection Paper due Tuesday, 8/29

8/29 “*Traditional*” *Korean Culture:* Social structure of Korea at the end of the Joseon Dynasty; the traditional Korean village; Neo-Confucianism and hierarchy; Joseon familial structure; hold-overs to the present

 Readings: Deuchler, Martina. 1992. “The Contours of Korean Society in Late Chosŏn” pp.6-14 in *The Confucian Transformation of Korea: A Study of Society and Ideology*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

8/31 *Joseon Society and Culture (continued)*

ASSIGNMENT 2: 2-page Reflection Paper due to Laulima on Tuesday, 9/5

9/5 Korean Film Project (in lieu of regular class)

9/7 *Japanese Colonization and its Legacy*: historical overview of Japanese colonization of Korea; “Colonial Modernity” and its critics; collaborators, resisters, and the lingering aftermath; the Japanese occupation in the popular imagination

Readings: Bruce Cumings. 2005. “Eclipse, 1905-1945,” pp.139-184 in *Korea’s Place in the Sun*.

ASSIGNMENT 3: 2-page Movie Reflection Paper due Tuesday, 9/12

9/12 *Japanese Colonization: The “Comfort Women”*:

Readings: excerpt from *Comfort Women Speak: Testimony by Sex Slaves of the Japanese Military* (2000), Ed. by Sangmie Choi Schellstede.

Optional Extra Reading: “Tattoo-The Story of a Comfort Woman” (2013) by Bak Geon-ung. Web toon, translated into English (content is of a violent and disturbing nature; discretion is advised when reading; you are NOT REQUIRED to read this) <http://foxtalk.tistory.com/98>

9/14 *National Division and the Korean War*: liberation; the US military government; founding of the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea; the brutality and destruction of war; the Korean War in memory

Readings: Bruce Cumings. 2010. “The Flooding of Memory,” pp.165-203 in *The Korean War: A History*.

ASSIGNMENT 4: 2-page Reflection Paper due Tuesday, 9/19

9/19 *Legacy of Division and the Divided Families*: movie, “Divided Families” (2014)
we will watch this in class

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u670xNcC2Is&t=31s>

9/21 *Prospects for Unification*: The Sunshine Policies of Kim Dae-jung and Roh Moo-hyun; shifting public opinion regarding unification with the North; the new Moon Administration’s engagement plan

Readings: “Young S. Koreans wary of unification,” 2011. *The Washington Post*. Oct. 18.

ASSIGNMENT 5: 2-page Reflection Paper due Tuesday, 9/26

9/26 *Law and Korean Society: The National Security Law and free speech:*
Readings: Amnesty International. 2012. "Emblematic NSL Cases" in *The National Security Law: Curtailing Freedom of Expression and Association in the Name of Security in the Republic of Korea*.

9/28 *Developmentalism and Dictatorship:*
Readings: Cho Se-Hui. 1978. "A Dwarf Launches a Little Ball."
Steven Denney. 2015. "The Mixed Legacy of a South Korean Dictator," *The Diplomat*. Sept. 17.
Park Chung-hee. 1971. "To Build a Nation" (excerpt)

ASSIGNMENT 6: 2-page Reflection Paper due Tuesday, 10/3

10/3 *The Labor Movement:*
Readings: Hagen Koo. 2001. "Chapter 4: A Martyr, Women Workers, and Churches," in *Korean Workers: The Culture and Politics of Class Formation*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

10/5 *Democratization and the Student Movement:*
Readings: Joan E. Cho and Paul Y. Chang. 2016. "The Socioeconomic Foundations of South Korea's Democratization Movement," pp.63-75 in *Routledge Handbook of Korean Culture and Society*. Ed. by Youna Kim

ASSIGNMENT 7: 2-page Reflection Paper due Tuesday, 10/10

10/10 Mid-term Review

10/12 MID-TERM EXAM

10/17 *Film: "Peppermint Candy" (1999)*

10/19 *Changing Family Structure: breakdown of the extended-family structure*
Readings: Finch, John and Seung-kyung Kim. 2016. "The Korean family in transition," pp.134-48 in *Routledge Handbook of Korean Culture and Society*. Ed. By Youna Kim.

ASSIGNMENT 8: 2-page Reflection Paper due Tuesday, 10/24

10/24 *Changing Family Structure, continued: rapidly aging society and elderly poverty*
Readings: "Summer in Tapgol Park" 2017. <https://koreaexpose.com/summer-tapgol-park/>

- 10/26 *Class Inequality*
- Readings: Koo, Hagen. 2016. "The Global Middle Class: How is it Made, What does it represent?" *Globalizations* pp.1-14.
- ASSIGNMENT 9: 2-page Reflection Paper due Tuesday, 10/31
- 10/31 *Education Fever:*
- Readings: Park, So-jin. 2007. "Educational Manager Mothers: South Korea's Neoliberal Transformation," *Korea Journal* 47:3 pp.186-213.
- 11/2 *Gender Issues in Korea: roots of gender-based discrimination*
- Readings: Seungsook Moon. 2005. "Marginalized in Production and Mobilized to be Domestic: Women's Incorporation into the Nation," pp.68-94 in *Militarized Modernity and Gendered Citizenship in South Korea*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- ASSIGNMENT 10: 2-page Reflection Paper due Tuesday, 11/7
- 11/7 *Gender Issues in Korea, continued: gender-based violence; Korean feminist movement*
- <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/101east/2017/04/south-korea-gender-wars-170413122631794.html>
- Readings: "Why South Korea is worrying about the position of women" *The Economist*. May26, 2016.
- "Megalia: South Korean Feminism Marshals the Power of the Internet" *Korea Exposé*. July 29, 2016. (<https://koreaexpose.com/megalia-south-korean-feminism-marshals-the-power-of-the-internet/>)
- 11/9 *Multicultural Korea: migrant wives; migrant labor; the Korean Chinese; "one-blood" nationhood and the politics of Damunhwajuui (multiculturalism)*
- Readings: EuyRyung Jun. 2015. "Tolerance, *Tamunhwa* , and the Creating of the New Citizens," pp.79-94 in *Multiethnic Korea? Multiculturalism, Migration, and Peoplehood Diversity in Contemporary South Korea*. Ed. by John Lie
- ASSIGNMENT 11: Final Research Paper Topic (1 paragraph) due Tuesday, 11/14
- 11/14 *Multicultural Korea, continued:*
- Readings: "South Korea's first black model," *Al Jazeera*. April 12, 2017. (<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/04/south-korea-black-model-170406081325926.html>)
- 11/16 *Film: "Punch" (2014)*

ASSIGNMENT 12: 2-page Reflection Paper due Tuesday, 11/21

- 11/21 *North Korean Society*: structure and ideology; *Juche* and the politics of North Korea; contemporary North Korea; similarities and differences between the North and South
- Readings: Meredith Shaw and David Kang. 2016. "The Seventy-Year History of North Korean Cultural Formation," pp.76-90 in *Routledge Handbook of Korean Culture and Society*. Ed. By Youna Kim.
- 11/28 *North Korean Migrants*: contested definition/subjectivity; ways in which South Korean society supports and shuns North Korean migrants
- Readings: Jung Jin-Heon. 2015. "North Korean Migrants in South Korea: From Heroes to Burdens and First Unifiers," pp.142-64 in *Multiethnic Korea? Multiculturalism, Migration, and Peoplehood Diversity in Contemporary South Korea*. Ed. by John Lie
- 11/30 *Current Politics: The Candlelight Protests*:
- Readings: Scott, Keith. 2013. "Leaderless Political Opposition: The 2008 Candlelight Protests and the Changing Face of Korean Democracy," *The Review of Korean Studies* 16(1):pp.90-117.
- 12/5 Presentations and Class Wrap-up
- 12/7 Presentations and Class Wrap-up