

SOC 358: Sociology of Korea

Prof.: Sun-Ki Chai
Fall 2008

Notes:

- **This is a tentative syllabus, and is subject to change.** These changes may include book and material assignments.
- Those who require instructor permission to register for this course should wait until the first day of class to request this, so that the overall situation of the class can be assessed before a decision is made.

Sociology of Korea is a course that introduces the student to all major aspects of Korean society, which will cover both historical and contemporary periods in light of social science theory. This is a course designed for advanced undergraduates and interested graduate students, and is not meant for those who have no prior exposure to the study of East Asia or to social science theory. Readings will reflect such expectations. There will be substantial analytical writing assignments involved in this course, as well as in-class discussion of issues.

Required books:

JaHyun Kim Haboush and Martina Deuchler (eds.), *Culture and the State in Late Choson Korea* (Harvard East Asian Monographs, 2002).

Pang Kie-Chung, Ki-jung Pang, Yong-sop Kim (eds.), *Landlords, Peasants and Intellectuals in Modern Korea* (Cornell East Asia Program, 2005).

Hagen Koo, *Korean Workers: The Culture and Politics of Class Formation* (Cornell University Press, 2001).

Gi-Wook Shin, *Ethnic Nationalism in Korea: Genealogy, Politics, And Legacy* (Stanford University Press, 2006).

These assigned books will be supplemented by a packet of additional reading materials and/or online reading assignments.

Tentative required assignments and points:

Weekly application essays (35% of grade): students will be expected to write short (approximately 500 word) essays which will involve applying the topics learned that week to a specific question provided by the course professor.

Midterm and Final exam (35% of grade): these will be take-home essay exams, and will involve addressing larger questions that cover much of the material presented in a section of the course.

Attendance and Participation in Class Discussion (30% of grade): attendance for each class is expected for each student, in addition to regular participation in class discussion. Small group discussions may be used to facilitate participation.

Tentative sequence of topics covered

Modern Historical Development

Late Chosun Dynasty and the Encroachment of Global Forces

The Colonial Era

Independence and Division

The Era of Military Dictatorship

Democratization and Globalization

Aspects of Society

Political Economy: Development during the Chosun and Colonial Eras

Political Economy: State-Led Growth

Political Economy: The Labor Force

Political Economy: Post-Crisis Transformation

Civil Society: Governance Structures until the 1960s

Civil Society: Democratization

Civil Society: Insularity and Ethnic Nationalism

Culture: The Place of Korean Culture in East Asia

Culture: Value Change and Culture Clash

Culture: Hallyu and the Popular Economy

Plagiarism

It goes without saying that plagiarism will be dealt with in a very strict matter in this course, and can result in failure of the course or even further penalties depending on the severity of the infraction. It is the student's responsibility to understand the rules for plagiarism.

The following definition of plagiarism comes from the UH-Manoa Student Conduct Code (1992, p. 6): 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.

Accomodations

As with other courses, I am happy to work with the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course for student with special learning needs. 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.