SOC358: Sociology of Korea

(Fall 2009/ CRN: 77736)

Instructor: Professor Hagen Koo
Class Hours: MW 12:00-1:15
Class Room: Saunders 541

Koo’s Office: Saunders 209 (956-8248)
Office Hours: M/Tue 1:30-3:00
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Course Objective:

This course is designed to provide a general overview of modern Korean society from a sociological perspective. It examines both historical experiences and modern transformation of Korea and tries to understand the culture, institutions, and social processes in today’s South Korea from a historical and sociological perspective. The course materials cover primarily South Korea but attention will also be given to North Korea and its relations with South Korea and the United States.

Anyone who has wanted to learn about Korea and its culture in greater depth than usually portrayed in the media, this is a right course. The instructor is a well-known expert and writer on Korea, but for other obligations he could not teach this popular course last two years and he won’t be able to offer this course next year either. So, if you’d wanted to take a course from Professor Koo, this is a good opportunity.

Text:

A Packet of Reading Materials
(to be purchased at Professional Image, 2633 S. King St. 973-6599)

Recommended Reading:

Nancy Abelmann, The Melodrama of Mobility: Women, Talk, and Class in Contemporary South Korea (University of Hawai‘i Press, 2003).
Requirements

All students are expected to attend lectures regularly and do assigned reading, and there are several specific requirements for the course:

1) Two mid-term exams (short-answer type) and a final take-home exam (essay questions).
2) One book review (about 2-3 pages) on one of the recommended books above.
3) A group project on a selected topic on Korean culture and society using internet or other materials; the project result will be collectively presented in the class.
4) A few one-page writing assignments (eg., report on a Korean film, TV drama, or a commentary on some topical issues).

Final Grade:

The student's final grade will be determined by the following scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>20% each</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam (or term paper)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group project and presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class attendance &amp; assignments</td>
<td>10%</td>
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