



Korea University International Summer Campus (KU ISC) 2023

Embark on a unique summer

June 27, 2023 ~ August 3, 2023

ISC281 – Contemporary Korean Society

I . Instructor

Professor	:	Dr Judith Cherry
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Home Institution	:	University of Sheffield
Class Time	:	Mon-Thu 15:00-16:40
Office	:	TBC
Office Hours	:	Mon-Thu 13:30-14:30 KST [Or by Appointment]

II. Textbook

Required Textbook	:	<p>The books by Cumings and Tudor are the core textbooks for this course and are available from Amazon.com in hard copy and e-format. There are several editions of both books – although the differences between editions may not be substantial, you should buy the most up-to-date edition you can find. You should buy – and start reading! -- these books <u>before the course begins.</u></p> <p>Cumings, Bruce. <i>Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History</i>. New York, London: Norton. ISBN-13: 978-0393327021</p> <p>Tudor, Daniel. <i>Korea: The Impossible Country</i>. Singapore: Tuttle Publishing. ISBN-13: 978-0804846394</p>
Recommended Additional Readings	:	An electronic course reader of relevant articles for each topic will be available on Blackboard at the beginning of the course.

III. Course Description and Objectives

The overarching theme of this course is social change in contemporary Korea, focusing on the rapid changes experienced by the past three generations of people living in South Korea. The objective of this course is to give you an understanding of the causes and consequences of this rapid social change by examining key social issues in contemporary South Korean society. The international nature of the Summer Campus also provides an excellent opportunity to compare

South Korea and its experiences with other countries in the global community. You will be encouraged to reflect on attitudes towards these social issues in your own society, and to compare your own experiences, attitudes and beliefs with those of your classmates.

The course begins with an introduction to the history of unified Korea (7th century to 1948) and the political and economic development of South and North Korea since 1948. We also examine the main teachings of Confucianism, which underpins and continues to influence many of the social issues we will be discussing. This introductory section provides the context for the lectures and discussions that follow.

We will then, through lectures and group discussions, examine the causes and impact of some of the most significant social issues and trends in contemporary South Korea, and compare the attitudes and experience of South Korean millennials with those of their parents and grandparents and, in some cases, with those of their global counterparts. Included in these issues are the division and possible reunification of the Korean peninsula; anti-foreign sentiment and racism; multiculturalism; education; self-image and body image; celebrity and social media; marriage and family; gender; and the millennials' hopes for the future.

In each session, you will be asked to discuss some general questions relating to the causes and impact of specific social issues in your own countries, and you will then be encouraged to think about differences and similarities with South Korea, based on lecture materials, readings and a wide variety of audio-visual materials. The blog, which forms part of the assessment for the course, provides you with an opportunity to explore an aspect of Korean society that particularly interests you, and offer discussion and analysis from your own cultural perspective. Submissions in recent years have discussed issues as diverse as the Comfort Women, poverty among the elderly, demonstration cultures in China and Korea, dating and food! (Examples of past submissions will be made available on Blackboard.)

By the end of this course you will have developed:

1. An understanding of the key social issues facing contemporary South Korea, including education, multiculturalism, cosmetic surgery, and the breakdown of the traditional family.
2. An ability to critically compare the significance of, and response to, these issues in South Korea and your own society.
3. An appreciation of the wide range of resources that can be used to illustrate and analyse contemporary social issues.
4. An ability to formulate and discuss your ideas and opinions in a group setting.

IV. Grading

Final Exam	:	50%
Blog	:	30%
Attendance and Participation	:	20%

V. Class Outline [Provisional]

Date	Topic	Chapter	Remarks
June 27 (Tue)	Orientation Day		
June 28 (Wed)	Introduction to the Course		
June 29 (Thu)	Lecture: Historical Background		
June 30 (Fri)	Lecture: Historical Background		
July 3 (Mon)	Lecture: The Origins and Legacy of Confucianism		
July 4 (Tue)	Lecture: The Division of the Korean Peninsula		
July 5 (Wed)	Videos and Discussion: Separated Families and the Implications of Korean Reunification		
July 6 (Thu)	Lecture: Anti-American and Anti-Foreign Sentiment in South Korea		
July 10 (Mon)	Lecture: South Korea as a Multi-Cultural Society		
July 11 (Tue)	Videos and Discussion: Kosians and Blasians		
July 12 (Wed)	Lecture: Education in South Korea		
July 13 (Thu)	Videos and Discussion: The Economic and Social Cost of Education in South Korea		
July 17 (Mon)	Lecture: Cosmetic Surgery in South Korea		
July 18 (Tue)	Videos and Discussion: Under the Knife in South Korea – Vanity or Economic Necessity?		
July 19 (Wed)	Lecture: The Family and Marriage in South Korea		
July 20 (Thu)	Videos and Discussion: The Changing South Korean Family		
July 24 (Mon)	Lecture: ‘Hell Choson’		
July 25 (Tue)	Videos and Discussion: The South Korean Millennials and the ‘MZ Generation’		
July 26 (Wed)	Lecture and Discussion: Gender Issues in South Korea		
July 27 (Thu)	Blog Presentations		
July 31 (Mon)	Blog Presentations and Course Review		
Aug 1 (Tue)	Final Examination		
Aug 2 (Wed)	Film Screening [TBC]		
Aug 3 (Thu)	Student Conferences / Graduation Day (Available both Online / Offline)		

PLEASE NOTE THAT I AM HAPPY TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE ASSESSMENTS LISTED ABOVE, IN ORDER TO MEET INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDIT TRANSFER. PLEASE CONTACT ME AT THE EMAIL ADDRESS GIVEN ABOVE.