



Korea University International Summer Campus (KU ISC) 2018

Embark on a unique summer

June 26, 2018 ~ August 2, 2018

ISC281 – Contemporary Korean Society

I . Instructor

Professor	:	Dr Judith Cherry
E-mail	:	drjudithcherry@gmail.com
Home Institution	:	University of Sheffield
Office	:	TBC
Office Hours	:	Mon-Thu 12:30-13:15 and meetings by request

II. Textbook

Required Textbook	:	Cumings, Bruce. <i>Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History</i> . New York, London: Norton. ISBN-13: 978-0393327021
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Tudor, Daniel. *Korea: The Impossible Country*. Singapore: Tuttle Publishing.
ISBN-13: 978-0804842525

Both are available from Amazon. You should buy – and start reading! -- these books before the course begins. They will not be available for purchase at Korea University.

Recommended Readings	Additional	:	A course reader will be available at the beginning of the course; you should purchase the reader from COPYMART as soon as possible, to ensure that you keep up with the readings.
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III. Course Description and Objectives

The objective of this course is to introduce you to, and help you to understand and analyse, key issues in contemporary Korean society.

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

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

V. Class Outline[Provisional]

Date	Topic	Chapter*	Remarks
June 26 (Tue)	Orientation Day		
June 27 (Wed)	Introduction		
June 28 (Thu)	Lecture: Historical and Political Context		
June 29 (Fri)	Lecture: Historical and Political Context		
July 2 (Mon)	Lecture: The Origins and Legacy of Confucianism		
July 3 (Tue)	Lecture: The Division of the Korean Peninsula		
July 4 (Wed)	Film Screening: 'A State of Mind'		
July 5 (Thu)	Videos and Discussion: Separated Families		
July 9 (Mon)	Lecture: Anti-Americanism and Anti-Foreignism		
July 10 (Tue)	Videos and Discussion: Attitudes Towards Foreigners in South Korea		
July 11 (Wed)	Lecture: South Korea as a Multi-Cultural Society		
July 12 (Thu)	Videos and Discussion: Kosians and Blasians		
July 16 (Mon)	Lecture: Education in South Korea		
July 17 (Tue)	Videos and Discussion: The High Economic and Social Cost of Education in South Korea		
July 18 (Wed)	Lecture: Cosmetic Surgery		
July 19 (Thu)	Videos and Discussion: Cosmetic Surgery in South Korea – Vanity or Economic Necessity?		Blog Due
July 23 (Mon)	Lecture: The Family and Marriage in South Korea		
July 24 (Tue)	Lecture: Hell Choson		
July 25 (Wed)	Videos and Discussion: The South Korean Millennials		
July 26 (Thu)	Blogs: Discussion		
July 30 (Mon)	Blogs: Discussion/Film Screening 'If You Were Me'		
July 31 (Tue)	Final Examination		
Aug 1 (Wed)	Student Conferences		
Aug 2 (Thu)	Seminar: Three Generations in South Korea GRADUATION		

* The Course Reader will contain readings for each session.

VI. Additional Information

Class Participation:

You are expected to take an active part in class discussions; this involves preparing for each session by doing the required readings, thinking about the questions listed for each topic, and discussing your views with the other members of the class. You will be assigned to discussion groups on a random basis. **Regular attendance is expected, and significant absences will adversely affect your participation mark and your ability to perform well in the final examination.**

Blog:

You will be asked to write a 2,000-word blog on an aspect of contemporary Korean society that you find particularly interesting, comparing it with your own society. You may draw on discussions with Korean friends, media reports, online blogs and discussion to supplement academic sources and your own observations and experiences while attending the summer school. Examples of blogs from 2017 will be made available as examples of this kind of assessment. **The blog should be uploaded to Turnitin by 17:00 on Thursday 19 July.**

Final Examination [Tuesday 31 July]:

In the final, 90-minute examination, you will answer two essay questions from a list of five; the questions will require you to draw upon the general understanding that you have acquired about contemporary Korean society, and to illustrate your answers with specific examples relating to the topics we have discussed and the readings provided for each topic.

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