

**TROY UNIVERSITY PACIFIC REGION
COURSE SYLLABUS
IR6600 Selected Topics in IR: North Korea
Term III, 2015-2016 [4 January — 6 March 2016]
Weekend/Web-Enhanced at Camp Humphreys, ROK
30-31 January; 20-21 February 2016**

INSTRUCTOR/PROFESSOR: Daniel Pinkston
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MEETING LOCATION, DATES & TIMES: Classes will meet on two weekends [30-31 January and 20-21 February 2016] from 0900 to 1800. This course includes a “web-enhanced” portion, which is explained below.

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines North Korean politics, economics and society. The course will review the establishment of the North Korean state and its contemporary political institutions, as well as the economy and state-society relations. While North Korea will be viewed through theoretical lenses, the course will address practical policy dilemmas when dealing with North Korea.

TEXTBOOKS:

B. R. Myers, *North Korea's Juche Myth* (CreateSpace Independent Publishing, October 2015), ISBN-10: 1508799938; ISBN-13: 978-1508799931.

Jang Jin-sung, *Dear Leader: My Escape from North Korea* (Atria, 2014; paperback, January 2015), ISBN-10: 1476766568; ISBN-13: 978-1476766560.

Stephan Haggard and Marcus Noland, *Witness to Transformation: Refugee Insights into North Korea* (Washington, DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics, 2011), ISBN 0881324388.

Andrei Lankov, *The Real North Korea: Life and Politics in the Failed Stalinist Utopia* (Oxford University Press, 2013; updated revised edition, December 2014), ISBN-10: 0199390037; ISBN-13: 978-0199390038.

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS: Additional readings for the course, including book chapters, journal articles, and other materials will be available in pdf file format in Blackboard. Students will need to download the files from Blackboard and read the materials before class meetings. If you have any problems downloading the materials please email me at dapinkston@troy.edu.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES/ PURPOSE: Students will be introduced to North Korean state institutions, [North] Korean Workers Party (KWP) institutions, and the role of the party in the government, economy, military, and society. Students also will be introduced to North Korea ideology and its role in maintaining the Kim family dictatorship. The course also will review the [North] Korean People's Army and mass organizations, and their role in the state. Finally,

students should develop an understanding of key North Korea policy issues including nuclear and missile proliferation, economic insecurity, food insecurity, and human rights.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Student's grades will be determined as follows:

Web-enhanced briefing memo 15%
Participation in class discussions 15%
Web-enhanced book review 20%
Final paper 50%

BLACKBOARD: The Troy University MSIR program uses the Blackboard educational technology system for its courses. You will need to access Blackboard to obtain some of the course reading materials. I will explain any other uses of Blackboard activities in class.

WEB-ENHANCED PORTION: This course combines instructions inside and outside of the classroom. Troy requires 45 hours of instruction for a three-unit course. We will meet for a total of 32 hours in the classroom, so 13 hours must be covered outside of class. Troy requires that at least 51 percent, but not more than 80 percent of contact hours be in the classroom. Our in class portion will total 71 percent of the course requirement. Troy regulations stipulate that the out-of-classroom portion may be Blackboard, CD/DVD, memory stick, reading/study/writing, and other methods, or a combination thereof.

The W-E portion in this course will consist of two assignments. The first W-E assignment will be to read and write a short memo (no more than 1,000 words) that explains the main arguments in V.I. Lenin's *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*. A pdf version will be available in Blackboard. You can skim the introductions and the appendix; the main text is on pages 33-123. The memo is due no later than 24 January. Please note that this assignment is due before our first class meeting. This background reading is a prerequisite for understanding the North Korean worldview that influences much of the country's foreign policy and national security policy. The second part of this first assignment is to watch the documentary *Crossing the Line* (2006), a film by Daniel Gordon and Nicholas Bonner. The film can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EKs7P6l5--M>. Please view the documentary and be prepared to discuss it on the first day of class.

The second W-E assignment will be to write a critical review of *North Korea's Juche Myth* by B. R. Myers. The book review should be no more than 2,000 words.

You can find lots of information about writing book reviews online, but this is a good format to follow:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/writing-critical-review>

Here are some more tips:

<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/book-reviews/>

The critical review assignment is due by e-mail no later than 21 February 2016.

FINAL TERM PAPER: The term paper will be a research/analytical paper or a policy recommendation paper covering an appropriate topic in North Korean politics, economics or society. The topic can address a wide range of issues, but students must receive instructor approval for their paper topics. This is not meant to discourage anyone; I am quite flexible. However, it is better to communicate your ideas or intentions to make sure you're on the right track before spending time and effort on an inappropriate topic. The paper should be about 5,000-8,000 words and double-spaced. Please use Chicago-style footnotes with a bibliography. The deadline for submission by e-mail is 3 March 2016.

STUDENT-INSTRUCTOR INTERACTION/COMMUNICATION: I do not have regular office hours but meetings are available in Seoul by appointment. We can schedule a time to meet before or after class, or some other mutually convenient time. I will respond to your e-mails as quickly as I can., but if it is extremely urgent, or if you need to discuss something that cannot be addressed through e-mail, you can reach me by telephone. I am available by appointment for discussions by telephone or skype as well.

USEFUL BLOGS AND WEBSITES: Below are some useful websites for current information and news on North Korea.

ROK Ministry of Unification: www.unikorea.go.kr (<http://eng.unikorea.go.kr/>)

ROK Korea Institute for National Unification: www.kinu.or.kr

KCNA: www.kcna.kp

Uriminjokkiri: www.uriminjokkiri.com

Rodong Sinmun: www.rodong.rep.kp

Naenara: www.naenara.com.kp/

North Korea Leadership Watch: nkleadershipwatch.wordpress.com/

NK News: www.nknews.org/

North Korea Economy Watch: www.nkeconwatch.com/

North Korea Witness to Transformation: www.piie.com/blogs/nk/

KPA Journal: <http://www.kpajournal.com/>

DPRK country profile at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): www.fao.org

World Food Programme DPRK page: www.wfp.org

Choson Exchange: www.chosonexchange.org/

CLASS SCHEDULE: This schedule is subject to adjustment, and the instructor reserves the right to change the reading assignments if necessary. This is unlikely, but any changes will be made with sufficient time for students to complete the readings and assignments.

30 January (Saturday)

Morning: Introduction; IR and domestic politics. Do domestic politics matter? If so, how? Does regime type matter for IR-related questions? Does regime type matter for policy issues? Authoritarian politics; principle-agent relationships, agency loss/slack; collective action, shirking and free-riding.

Readings: V.I. Lenin, *Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism*. Please note that the

short memo on this reading is due on 24 January—six days before class. Ronald Wintrobe, Chapters 1-3 in *The Political Economy of Dictatorship*.

Recommended or suggested readings (but not mandatory): Sean Gailmard, “Accountability and Principal-Agent Models,” Chapter prepared for the *Oxford Handbook of Public Accountability* (2012), particularly pp. 1-6, and pp. 10-21; Mancur Olson, *The Logic of Collective Action* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1965), pp. 5-65; Bruce Cumings, Chapter 3 “August to September 1945: Revolution and Reaction,” and Chapter 11 “The North Wind” *The Origins of the Korean War: Liberation and the Emergence of Separate Regimes 1945-1947*. **Note:** additional suggested or recommended readings for future class meetings will be made available in Blackboard.

Afternoon: History and background; national division and the Korean War; Korea and the Cold War; establishment of the Kim family dynasty.

Readings: Kim Il Sung, *On Repelling the Armed Invasion by the US Imperialists and Achieving Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War*; Andrei Lankov, “Introduction,” and Chapter 1 “North Korea and Its Leadership in the Mid-1950s,” in *Crisis in North Korea*.

31 January (Sunday)

Morning: Ideology and “political work.”

Readings: Friedrich and Brzezinski, *Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy*, Chapters 7-9; János Kornai, Chapter 4 “Ideology,” in *The Socialist System: The Political Economy of Communism*; Kim Il Sung, “Theses on Socialist Education;” Kim Jong Il, “On the Juche Idea;” Kim Jong Il, “Giving Priority to Ideological Work Is Essential for Accomplishing Socialism;” Kim Jong Il, “On Further Developing Mass Gymnastics;” Kim Jong Il, “The Grand Mass Gymnastics and Artistic Performance *Arirang* Is a World-Class Masterpiece Representative of the New Century;” Kim Jong Un, “Let Us Hasten Final Victory through a Revolutionary Ideological Offensive;” Kim Jong Un, “Let Us Usher in a New Golden Age of Building a Sports Power in the Revolutionary Spirit of Paektu;” Kim Jong Un, “Let Us Add Eternal Brilliance to Comrade Kim Jong Il’s Great Idea of and Achievements in the Songun Revolution;” Jang Jin-sung, *Dear Leader: My Escape from North Korea*.

Afternoon: Ideology continued; political institutions; the KWP; security institutions; mass organizations

Readings: DPRK constitution; Paul R. Gregory, Introduction and Chapter 1 in *Terror by Quota: State Security from Lenin to Stalin*; Ken Gause, Chapter 3 “North Korean Leadership Dynamics Post-Jang Song-taek,” Chapter 4 “How the Regime Operates,” and Chapter 5 “The Supreme Leader’s Personal Secretariat,” in *North Korean House of Cards: Leadership Dynamics under Kim Jong-un*.

DVD: *A State of Mind* (2004), a documentary film by Daniel Gordon to be viewed in class.

20 February (Saturday)

Morning: Political institutions continued; the KPA; introduction to socialist/communist

economies

Readings: Kim Il Sung, “On the Occasion of Founding the Anti-Japanese People’s Guerrilla Army;” Kim Jong Il, “On Strengthening the People’s Army and Creating a Social Climate in Which Prominence Is Given to Military Affairs;” János Kornai, Chapter 7 “Planning and Direct Bureaucratic Control,” in *The Socialist System: The Political Economy of Communism*; János Kornai, Chapter 19 “The Rise of the Private Sector,” in *The Socialist System: The Political Economy of Communism*; Paul R. Gregory, Chapter 1 “The Jockey or the Horse?” and Chapter 2 “Collectivization, Accumulation, and Power,” in *The Political Economy of Stalinism: Evidence from the Soviet Secret Archives*.

Afternoon: Planning and markets; the North Korean economy; economic reform?

Readings: Haggard and Noland, *Witness to Transformation: Refugee Insights into North Korea*; Kim Jong Il, “Let Us Firmly Equip Ourselves with the Theory of Juche-Oriented Socialist Economic Management;” Kim Jong Un, “Let Us Bring about Innovations in Agricultural Production under the Unfurled Banner of the Socialist Rural Theses;” Kim Suk-Jin and Yang Moon-Soo, “The Growth of the Informal Economy in North Korea,” Study Series 15-02, KINU, October 2015; Ken Gause, Chapter 6 “The Royal Economy—Controlling the Kim Family Finances,” in *North Korean House of Cards: Leadership Dynamics under Kim Jong-un*.

21 February (Sunday)

Morning: The North Korean economy continued; food insecurity; human rights; food insecurity.

Readings: United Nations General Assembly Human Rights Council, “Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea” (Summary); DPRK Association for Human Rights Studies, “Report of the DPRK Association for Human Rights Studies,” September 2014; Robert Collins, *Marked for Life: Songbun, North Korea’s Social Classification System*; WFP Democratic People’s Republic of Korea | Brief, Reporting period: 01 July – 30 September 2015 (or later update from the WFP website if available, www.wfp.org).

Afternoon: Policy implications, how to deal with North Korea.

Readings: Andrei Lankov, *The Real North Korea: Life and Politics in the Failed Stalinist Utopia*.

DVD: *Dennis Rodman's Big Bang in Pyongyang* (2015), a documentary film by Colin Offland to be viewed in class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance is mandatory. By university policy, the Troy coordinator must be notified if students miss more than 25% of classes.

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY: If a student requests an “INC”, he or she must submit to the instructor a signed *Petition for and Work to Remove an Incomplete Grade* form indicating the compelling reason for the “INC”. The instructor approving the request will

document the required work and the deadline for completion. When the student completes the required work, the instructor will submit a *Change of Grade* form. In cases where a student fails to make up “INC” course work by the end of the next term in which they enroll, the “INC” will automatically be recorded as an “F” grade on the student’s record.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA): Troy University supports Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which insure that post-secondary students with disabilities have equal access to all academic programs, physical access to all buildings, facilities and events, and are not discriminated against on the basis of disability. Eligible students, with appropriate documentation, will be provided equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic skills and potential through the provision of academic adaptations and reasonable accommodations. Further information, including appropriate contact information, can be found at the following link:
<http://trojan.troy.edu/epolicy/>.

STANDARDS OF CONDUCT: By their enrollment, students are responsible for following the “Standards of Conduct” as they apply in the Troy University Pacific Region. Students may be disciplined up to and including suspension and expulsion for the commission of offenses in described in the Graduate Bulletin. As a reminder to graduate students, the “Standards of Conduct” regards dishonesty as an offense, which includes cheating and plagiarism. Students should carefully study the definitions of cheating and plagiarism:

1. Cheating includes:

a) Copying, or relying upon, another student’s answers or submitting another student’s work as one’s own or submitting as new work assignments previously completed for another class, while completing any class assignment, study group assignment, or during in-class or take home examinations.

b) Providing one’s own answers to another student while completing any class assignment, study group assignment (except where approved by the instructor due to the nature of the assignment itself), or during in-class or take-home examinations.

c) Using notes, books, or any other unauthorized aids during an examination; or holding an unauthorized discussion of answers during in-class examinations.

2. Plagiarism is submitting a paper, other required student course requirement in which the language, ideas, or thoughts are identical to published or unpublished material from another source, including material found on the Internet, without correctly giving credit to that source. While computers and the Internet allow students to cut and paste work from other material, new software is making it easier for universities detect plagiarism. Instructors may screen electronic versions of student assignments using the detection software.

LIBRARY SUPPORT:

Students can access online information resources through Troy University web site at <http://www.troy.edu> or the Troy Library Services home page at <http://trojan.troy.edu/library/>. These resources include a variety of full text databases that provide complete article texts from thousands of journals, magazines and newspapers. Among the most helpful databases are JSTOR, Academic Search Complete, and Lexis-Nexis.