

**TROY UNIVERSITY PACIFIC REGION**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**IR6600 Selected Topics in IR: North Korea**  
**Term 4, 2016-2017 [13 March — 14 May 2017]**  
**Weekend/Web-Enhanced at Misawa AB, Japan**  
**Weekend 1/4: 18-19 March; 8-9 April 2017**

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**MEETING LOCATION, DATES & TIMES:** Classes will meet on two weekends [18-19 March and 8-9 April 2017] from 0900 to 1800 at Misawa Air Base. This course includes a “web-enhanced” portion, which is explained below. Please note that a Web-Enhanced assignment will be due through Blackboard on 18 March, before our first class meeting.

**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-13: 978-1508799931.

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

Andrei Lankov, *The Real North Korea: Life and Politics in the Failed Stalinist Utopia* (Oxford University Press, 2013; updated revised edition, December 2014), 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](mailto: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:**

Ungraded syllabus quiz 0%  
Participation in class discussions 15%  
Blackboard discussion 10%  
Web-Enhanced essays 15%  
Final exam 25%  
Final paper 30%  
Class presentation of final paper topic 5%

**METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:** Lectures, class discussion, and Blackboard discussions.

**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. Departmental policy mandates use of discussion boards in Blackboard. Accordingly, a series of questions will be posted in Blackboard. Students must read all discussion boards and must respond to the discussion questions over the course of the term. Discussion posts will account for 10% of the course grade. There will be an “ungraded syllabus quiz” in Blackboard to check attendance to verify that students are enrolled in the course. This ungraded simple “quiz” and personal introduction will be due no later than 18 March.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Students are expected to do the readings before class and be prepared to discuss the contents. Participation in class discussions account for 15% of your grade.

**WEB-ENHANCED PORTION:** This course combines instruction inside and outside of the classroom. Troy requires 45 hours of instruction for a three-unit course. We will meet for a total of 36 hours in the classroom, so 9 contact hours must be covered outside of class through Blackboard. The W-E portion in this course will consist of three parts or assignments. **The first assignment is due on 18 March 2017—before our first class meeting.** 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 18 March.** 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 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=yd2dCk3N8cE>. Please view the documentary and be prepared to discuss it on the first day of class. The third assignment will be some short essays posted in Blackboard after the first day of class. Those short answer essays will be due no later than 8 April.

**FINAL EXAM:** Department policy stipulates that every web-enhanced course must have a final exam no earlier than week 9 of a 9-week term. All written work, including final exams, must be given and graded in Blackboard. Final exams must be in essay format. Students will select two or three questions to answer from a short list of up to five questions.

**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 4,000-6,000 words and double-spaced. Please use Chicago-style footnotes with a bibliography. The deadline for submission through Blackboard is 12 May 2017.

**STUDENT-INSTRUCTOR INTERACTION/COMMUNICATION:** I do not have regular office hours but meetings are available by appointment before or after our class meetings at Misawa. 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://www.unikorea.go.kr) (<http://eng.unikorea.go.kr/>)

ROK Korea Institute for National Unification: [www.kinu.or.kr](http://www.kinu.or.kr)

KCNA: [www.kcna.kp](http://www.kcna.kp)

Uriminjokkiri: [www.uriminzokkiri.com](http://www.uriminzokkiri.com)

Rodong Sinmun: [www.rodong.rep.kp](http://www.rodong.rep.kp)

North Korea Leadership Watch: [nkleadershipwatch.wordpress.com/](http://nkleadershipwatch.wordpress.com/)

NK News: [www.nknews.org/](http://www.nknews.org/)

North Korea Economy Watch: [www.nkeconwatch.com/](http://www.nkeconwatch.com/)

North Korea Witness to Transformation: [www.piie.com/blogs/nk/](http://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](http://www.fao.org)

World Food Programme DPRK page: [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)

Choson Exchange: [www.chosonexchange.org/](http://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.

### **18 March (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*. 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; 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*.

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*.

### 19 March (Sunday)

Morning: Ideology and “political work.”

**Readings:** B. R. Myers, *North Korea’s Juche Myth*; 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, “On Strengthening the People’s Army and Creating a Social Climate in Which Prominence Is Given to Military Affairs.”

**Suggested readings:** 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;”

Afternoon: Ideology continued

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

### 8 April (Saturday)

Morning: political institutions; the KWP; the KPA; security institutions; mass organizations

**Readings:** DPRK constitution; Paul R. Gregory, Introduction and Chapter 1 in *Terror by Quota: State Security from Lenin to Stalin*; Jang Jin-sung, *Dear Leader: My Escape from North Korea*; 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*; Kim Il Sung, “On the Occasion of Founding the Anti-Japanese People’s Guerrilla Army.”

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: institutions (continued)

## 9 April (Sunday)

Morning: Planning and markets; the North Korean economy; food insecurity

**Readings:** 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*.

Afternoon: Policy implications; human rights; how to deal with North Korea

**Readings:** Andrei Lankov, *The Real North Korea: Life and Politics in the Failed Stalinist Utopia*; 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](http://www.wfp.org)).

**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, under the guidelines of ADA and the Rehabilitation Act, makes reasonable accommodations for documented physical and mental limitations of otherwise-qualified individuals with disabilities. To provide the best possible services to students, employees, and visitors, Troy University has designated Disability Services Coordinators and Human Resources representatives on each

campus as responsible parties for coordinating accommodations for persons with disabilities. For more information about physical access to building or grounds, academic or workplace accommodations, or other ADA related services, individuals should contact a Disability Services Coordinator or Human Resources representative on their campus of attendance. Specific information regarding the ADA, including contact information for responsible parties, can be found at the following link:  
<http://trojan.troy.edu/employees/humanresources/documents/ADAPolicy2003.htm>

**MOBILE PHONE AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICE STATEMENT:** Use of any electronic device (mobile phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) by students in the instructional environment is prohibited unless explicitly approved on a case-by-case basis by the instructor of record or by the Office of Disability Services in collaboration with the instructor. Mobile phones and other communication devices may be used for emergencies, however, but sending or receiving non-emergency messages during a class meeting is forbidden by the University. Use of a communication device to violate the Troy University “Standards of Conduct” will result in appropriate disciplinary action (See pp. 42-52 of the Oracle.) In order to receive emergency messages from the University or family members, devices must be in a vibration, or other unobtrusive mode. Students receiving calls that they believe to be emergency calls must answer quietly without disturbing the teaching environment. If the call is an emergency, they must move unobtrusively and quietly from the instructional area and notify the instructor as soon as reasonably possible. Students who are expecting an emergency call should inform the instructor before the start of the instructional period. The use of laptop computers in the classroom for this course is permitted.

**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 as 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 to 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.