

International Relations IV (for Post-graduate Students)

“Korean Issues since 1945”

Syllabus and Assessment Information

Course Leader: Dr. Senan Fox

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Teacher`s Room: Room 309 (General Education Hall - GEH) (総合教育 1 号館)

Consultation Times: If possible, please email Senan Fox in advance and make an appointment if you require a meeting to discuss your studies.

Keywords: China-North Korea relations, China-South Korea relations, Cold War, Domestic Politics, Japan-North Korea relations, Japan-South Korea relations, `Juche` (Spirit of Self-Reliance), Kim Il-Sung, Kim Jong-il, Kim Jong-un, Korean War (1950 – 1953), Maritime Disputes, Missile and Nuclear Weapons Tests, Nationalism, `Nordpolitik`, North Korea, North-South relations, Park Chung-hee, Political systems, Post-Cold War developments, South Korea, South Korea`s Economic Rise, Sunshine Policy, Syngman Rhee, US – North Korea relations, US – South Korea Relations.

The aims of this seminar are as follows:

- To enable students to gain a knowledge of the key issues that have influenced events on the Korean Peninsula since 1945
- To introduce students to the historical background of the relationship between North Korea and South Korea (and their relationship with major powers such as China, Japan, Russia (and the former Soviet Union), and the United States).
- To encourage discussion of the challenges faced on the Korean Peninsula, and how North Korea and South Korea (and other relevant major powers) might deal with these challenges.

- Students should also be able to display their knowledge of, and opinions about, a chosen topic in a writing assignment and via a class presentation. Students will also be required to complete brief homework assignments every week based on weekly reading materials and discussion handouts.

Seminar Plan

Seminar 1: Guidance Week

- Teacher and Student Introductions
- Seminar Introduction
- Discussion of Course Textbook and other Suggested Reading Materials
- Questions and Answers Opportunities

Seminar 2: The First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895) and Korea Under Japanese Occupation (1910 - 1945) (including World War Two).

Seminar 3: The Korean War (1950 – 1953), its Background (1945 –1950) and its Consequences

Seminar 4: General Park Chung-hee, and South Korea’s Economic Rise (1961 – 1979) (also known as ‘the Miracle on the Han River’)

Seminar 5: North Korea (and its Political System) under the ‘Supreme Leader’ Kim Il-sung (1948 – 1994)

Seminar 6: An Overview of Inter-Korean Relations (Diplomatic, Economic, Military, Political, Security, and Social Relations) (1953 – 1989)

Seminar 7: Relations between communist China, the Soviet Union (until 1991), and the two Koreas (1949 – Present Day)

Seminar 8: Relations between Japan and the two Koreas (1952 – Present Day)

Seminar 9: Relations between the United States and the two Koreas (1953 – Present Day)

Seminar 10: The Democracy Movement in South Korea (1980 – 1988)

Seminar 11: The Consequences of the End of the Cold War, and North Korea's Nuclear Weapons Program and Weapons Testing (1980s – Present Day)

Seminar 12: The Sunshine Policy (1998 - 2007)

Seminar 13: The Regimes of Kim Jong-il (1994 - 2011) and Kim Jong-un (2011 – Present Day)

Seminar 14: North Korea and South Korea related Maritime Disputes and Border Incidents

Seminar 15: Conclusion – Present and Future Challenges on the Korean Peninsula. Conflict Prevention and the Prospects for Peace

Assessment Details:

A student's final grade will be assessed as follows:

- 1) Seminar Class Attendance, Participation in Seminar Discussions, and Weekly Homework Assignments = 20%**
- 2) 1 Seminar Presentation = 20%.** Your presentation will be graded according to the quality of your presentation. For example, its structure - i.e. was it well planned (for example, bullet-points and titles)? Did it include background information about the topic? Did the student use the whiteboard and include pictures and visual data to enhance the presentation? Did it benefit and assist other students in the seminar?, Did the student use maps, handouts, or other documents in the presentation? Does the presentation include factual information, statistics, illustrations, primary source information (such as extracts from historical documents, quotations from NGOs, leaders, combatants, ordinary people, the views of respected scholars etc.)? Students should avoid vague generalizations that do not refer to any facts or evidence or present a simple chronological narrative-type account of

the issue, which does not show any analysis or independent thinking. Students should also be careful with timekeeping – make sure not to arrive late or to go beyond the presentation time limit (about 20 minutes in total). It is also a good idea to practice in advance of the real presentation in order to avoid computer or projector problems and other IT and software-related complications. Please send the teacher a presentation handout to provide to other students before the presentation seminar.

3) One Essay Assessment = 60% (see details below)

Essay Assessment

1. For this course, students are asked to complete **one** essay (entirely in English).
2. The essay must be **at least 1200 words long (minimum)**. This word limit does not include the bibliography (the list of books and other sources used to write the essay).
3. The deadline for submitting the essay is **the day of the seminar (Week 13) at 5pm.**
4. Students must submit **both a hard-copy and an email with the essay attached** to a) Dr. Senan Fox's office – **(Room 309 (General Education Hall - GEH)** and b) to Dr. Senan Fox's email address – **senanfox@staff.kanazawa-u.ac.jp** before the deadline. **The submitted essay hard copy and the email attachment essay must be exactly the same essay.**
5. Late submissions (after the deadline) will be penalized.
6. Please **choose only one question** from the topics shown below.

Essay Questions

Students must choose one essay question from the list shown below.

1. What was the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95)? What were the immediate consequences of Japan's victory for Korea? Discuss the war's significance (for the Korean Peninsula and the region).
2. Critically evaluate some of the major political, economic, and social effects of Japan's occupation of Korea from the late 1800s until 1945 (formal annexation from 1910 to 1945).
3. Why was Korea partitioned along the 38th parallel in 1945? How did the victorious powers after World War Two (in particular the US and the Soviet Union) plan to deal with Korea? To what extent did the Cold War prevent Korean re-unification (in the period from 1945 to 1950)?
4. What were the reasons for the outbreak of the Korean War in July 1950? Outline the major events in the war from June 1950 until July 1953, and discuss why the war ended in a stalemate without any outright victor.
5. Discuss the major political, social, economic, and military consequences of the end of the Korean War in July 1953.
6. Who was General Park Chung-hee? How and why did he rise to power? Assess his contribution to South Korea's dramatic economic development (*'the Miracle of the Han River'*) in the period from 1961 to 1979.
7. Critically evaluate the negative characteristics and criticisms of General Park Chung-hee's time in power (1961 to 1979).
8. Who was Kim Il-sung (1912-1994)? What were the main characteristics of his rule over North Korea in the period from 1948 to 1994? Using supporting evidence, provide an assessment of his time in power (1948 to 1994).
9. How did the wider global Cold War (1945 - 1991) (for example, in terms of relations between the USA, the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, and Japan) impact upon relations between North Korea and South

Korea in the period from 1953 to 1989? Provide notable examples to reinforce your points.

10. What were the key reasons for the increased popularity of the Democracy Movement in South Korea (from 1980 until 1987)? Using examples, discuss why it succeeded in its aims.
11. With regards to both North Korea and South Korea, discuss the main consequences of, and challenges created, by the end of the Cold War (1945 - 1991).
12. Using evidence, discuss the reasons why North Korea has increasingly used the threat of nuclear weapons development and proliferation since the 1990s.
13. Critically assess North Korea's post-1953 relationship (until the present day) with **one** of the following states: a) China, b) Japan, c) the former Soviet Union (until 1991) or d) the USA.
14. Critically assess South Korea's post-1953 relationship (until the present day) with **one** of the following states: a) China, b) Japan, c) the former Soviet Union (until 1991) or d) the USA.
15. Who was Kim Jong-il (1941/1942-2011)? What were the main characteristics of his rule over North Korea in the period from 1994 to 2011? Using supporting evidence, provide an assessment of his time in power (1994 to 2011).
16. Who was Kim Dae Jung (1924 - 2009)? What was the "Sunshine Policy" toward North Korea that was commenced by Kim Dae Jung in the late 1990s? When and why did the policy come to an end? Evaluate its successes and failures.
17. In your opinion, what are some of the main present and future challenges to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula? What are the prospects for peace and conflict prevention? Provide examples to reinforce your argument.

Suggested Course of Action

The following guidelines are a suggested course of action if you wish to successfully complete the essay assessment and to perform to your best ability.

This course of action is not compulsory nor will it be graded (essay plans and initial drafts for example) but it is recommended.

1. Think carefully about the essay question that you would like to choose. Think about the types of books and other sources you will use when writing the essay. Please feel free to use the reading material used in the seminar. You are also welcome to use other sources (in the library, from the internet, from Dr. Senan Fox's office, from Dr. Senan Fox's website etc.). If you have any questions or uncertainties, then please ask Dr. Senan Fox.
2. Submit an essay plan to Dr. Senan Fox. Arrange a meeting with Senan to discuss the essay in more detail and to receive feedback. Think carefully about how you will structure the essay. Ask yourself:
 - 'What books or other sources will I use?',
 - 'Have I taken care not to use unreliable sources such as 'Wikipedia'?',
 - 'What argument will I make?',
 - 'Have I taken care not to simply write a narrative-type essay with no argument and no independent thinking or opinions?',
 - 'Will I agree with the question, disagree with the question, or find a middle ground when writing the essay?' (for example, agree then disagree and then conclude with my own opinions),
 - 'How many paragraphs will I include in the essay?',
 - 'Have I included the views and opinions of scholars and writers in my essay?',
 - 'Have I correctly referenced all sources used in my essay, for example, (Drifte, 2003:187) or footnotes or endnotes? Can I show the reader from where exactly I found information that is not my own? (Author, Book Publication Year, Page Number).
 - 'Does my bibliography include full information about all books and other sources used when writing the essay?'

3. Submit a rough initial draft of the essay to Dr. Senan Fox. Use this time to ask more questions, to receive feedback, to make extra changes, to find some new books and sources, and to improve the essay before the real submission in Week 13.

Books: (All the books shown below can be borrowed from Senan Fox. You are also encouraged to check the library database as well as reliable online sources in the course of your research).

Recommended Purchase Book: Seth, Michael J. (2010), *A Concise History of Modern Korea – From the Late Nineteenth Century to the Present*, Rowland and Littlefield Publishers, New York, USA.

Best, Antony (ed.) (2008), *International History of the Twentieth Century and Beyond (Second Edition)*, Routledge, London, UK.

Cha, Victor (2012), *The Impossible State – North Korea, Past and Future*, Harper Collins, New York, USA.

Cohen, Warren (2000), *East Asia at the Center – Four Thousand Years of Engagement with the World*, Columbia University Press, New York, USA.

Cummings, Bruce (2010), *The Korean War – A History*, A Modern Library Chronicles Book, New York, USA.

Park, Kyung-Ae, and Snyder, Scott (eds.) (2013), *North Korea in Transition – Politics, Economy, and Society*, Rowland and Littlefield Publishers, New York, USA.

Roehrig, Terence, and Heo, Uk (2010), *South Korea Since 1980*, Cambridge University Press, New York, USA.

Roehrig, Terence, and Seo, Jungmin, and Heo, Uk (eds.) (2007), *Korean Security in a Changing East Asia*, Praeger Security International, London, UK.