

**TROY UNIVERSITY PACIFIC REGION**

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**IR6600 Selected Topics in IR -- North Korea: Politics, Economics & Culture**

**Term III, 2012-2013 [7 January — 10 March 2013]**

**Weekend/Web-Enhanced at Yongsan USAG, Seoul, ROK**

**12-13 January, 19-20 January 2013**

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**INSTRUCTOR/PROFESSOR:** Daniel Pinkston

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**MEETING LOCATION, DATES & TIMES:** Classes will meet on two weekends [12-13 January and 19-20 January 2013] 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:**

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

Chung-in Moon, *The Sunshine Policy: In Defense of Engagement as a Path to Peace in Korea* (Seoul: Yonsei University Press, 2012), ISBN 8997578421.

Victor Cha, *The Impossible State: North Korea, Past and Future* (New York: Ecco Publishers, 2012), ISBN 0061998508.

**SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:** Additional readings for the course, including book chapter and journal articles, will be available in pdf file format on dropbox. Students will need to download the files from a dropbox folder after receiving my permission to access the folder. As soon as you register for the course, please email me at: [dpinkston67640@troy.edu](mailto:dpinkston67640@troy.edu) and I will give you access. If you are unfamiliar with dropbox ([www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com)), it should be self-explanatory. If you have any problems or difficulty accessing the files in dropbox, please let me know.

**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 will provide students with 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:

Participation in class discussions	20%
Web-enhanced online assignment	30%
Take home final exam	50%

**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 a written review of Victor Cha, *The Impossible State: North Korea, Past and Future*.

You can find lots of information about writing book reviews online, but this is probably the best format to follow:

<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/onlib/critrev.html>

Here are some more tips:

[http://academicwriting.suite101.com/article.cfm/how\\_to\\_write\\_an\\_academic\\_book\\_review](http://academicwriting.suite101.com/article.cfm/how_to_write_an_academic_book_review)

The critical review assignment is due by e-mail no later than 2 March 2013.

**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 wasting time and effort on an inappropriate topic. The paper should be about 12-20 pages double-spaced, and the deadline for submission by e-mail is 3 March 2013.

**STUDENT-INSTRUCTOR INTERACTION/COMMUNICATION:** I do not have regular office hours since I am an adjunct professor. However, 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. 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.

**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)

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

KCNA: [www.kcna.kp](http://www.kcna.kp); or [www.kcna.co.jp](http://www.kcna.co.jp) (easier to search archives)

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 Leadership Tracker: [www.nknews.org/nk-leadership-tracker/](http://www.nknews.org/nk-leadership-tracker/)

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/)

Good Friends: <http://goodfriendsusa.blogspot.com/>

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)

**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.

### 12 January (Saturday)

**Readings:** Bruce Cumings *The Origins of the Korean War: Liberation and the Emergence of Separate Regimes 1945-1947*, Chapter Three “August to September 1945: Revolution and Reaction,” pp. 68-100; and Chapter Eleven, “The North Wind,” pp. 382-427; Andrei Lankov, “Crisis in North Korea, “Introduction,” pp. 1-6, and Chapter One, “North Korea and Its Leadership in the Mid-1950s,” pp. 7-25; Friedrich and Brzezinski, *Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy*, Chapters 7-9, pp. 85-115.

Morning: Introduction, history and background.

Afternoon: Political institutions, the Korean Workers Party, the political economy of dictatorship, Marxism-Leninism, totalitarian ideology.

### 13 January (Sunday)

**Readings:** DPRK Constitution; Victor Cha, *The Impossible State*, Chapters 2, 3 and 4, pp. 19-161; Han S. Park, *North Korea: Ideology, Politics, Economy*, Chapter 1, “The Nature and Evolution of Juche Ideology,” pp. 10-18; Robert Collins, *Marked for Life: Songbun, North Korea’s Social Classification System* (available at [www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/HRNK\\_Songbun\\_Web.pdf](http://www.hrnk.org/uploads/pdfs/HRNK_Songbun_Web.pdf)); Jae-Cheon Lim, “North Korea’s Hereditary Succession: Comparing Two Key Transitions in the DPRK,” *Asian Survey*, Vol. 52, Number 3, pp. 550–570; International Crisis Group, “North Korean Succession and the Risks of Instability,” Crisis Group Asia Report N°230, 25 July 2012; Mun Suk Ahn, “Kim Jong-il’s Death and His Son’s Strategy for Seizing Power in North Korea,” *Problems of Post-Communism*, Volume 59, Number. 4, July-August 2012, pp. 27–37; Haggard and Noland, *Witness to Transformation: Refugee Insights into North Korea*.

Morning: *Chuch’e* ideology, *sŏn’gun* ideology, the *sŏngbun* system.

Afternoon: North Korean succession, the political economy of North Korea from 1990 to the present.

### **19 January (Saturday)**

**Readings:** Andrei Lankov and Kim Seok-hyang, “North Korean Market Vendors: The Rise of Grassroots Capitalists,” *Pacific Affairs*, Volume 81, No. 1, spring 2008, pp. 53-72; Stephan Haggard and Marcus Noland, “The Winter of Their Discontent: Pyongyang Attacks the Market,” Peterson Institute for International Economics, Policy Brief, Number PB10-1, January 2010; Stephan Haggard and Marcus Noland, “North Korea’s External Economic Relations,” Peterson Institute for International Economics, Working Paper WP 07-7, August 2007; Jae-Cheon Lim, “Institutional Change in North Korean Economic Development Since 1984: The Competition Between Hegemonic and Non-hegemonic Rules and Norms,” *Pacific Affairs*, Volume 82, No. 1, Spring 2009; Shi Yongming, “Pyongyang’s Path to Prosperity: North Korea ponders a shift of strategic focus to economic development,” *The Beijing Review*, 16 June 2011; FAO and WFP, “FAO/WFP Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea,” Special Report, 12 November 2012; Cheol Hyun Jeong and Sang Hoon Lee, “Cultural Policy in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea,” *East Asia*, Volume 26, 2009, pp. 213–225.

Morning: North Korean economy, economic reform?

Afternoon: North Korean economy continued, food insecurity, North Korean culture.

### **20 January (Sunday)**

**Readings:** KINU, *2012 White Paper on Human Rights in North Korea*, pp. 14-63; Benjamin Habib, “North Korea’s nuclear weapons programme and the maintenance of the *Songun* system,” *The Pacific Review*, Vol. 24 No. 1, March 2011, pp. 43–64; Hee-Seog Kwon, “Negotiating with the North: Doubting its enrichment claims,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, May/June 2010; Siegfried S. Hecker, “A Return Trip to North Korea’s Yongbyon Nuclear Complex,” 20 November 2010; John W. Bauer, “A Philosophical Case for OPCON Transition on the Korean Peninsula,” *Joint Force Quarterly*, Issue 60, January 2011; Bruce W. Bennett and Jennifer Lind, “The Collapse of North Korea: Military Missions and Requirements,” *International Security*, Volume 36, Number 2, fall 2011, pp. 84–119.

Chung-in Moon, *The Sunshine Policy*.

Morning: Human rights, missile and nuclear proliferation, OPCON transfer.

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

**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 [www.troy.edu](http://www.troy.edu) or the Troy Library Services home page at [trojan.troy.edu/library/](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.