

**The Two Koreas**  
**USC U.S.-China Institute**  
**Summer 2020**

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#### About the course

Our 6-session, 3-week course will help you better understand North Korea and South Korea as two countries with a common past, divided only since 1945, and still stuck in the Cold War even many years after the fall of the Soviet bloc.

#### Requirements

Participants will read 50-60 pages of primary or secondary source materials for each session and view the video lecture for that topic. We will then have 1-hour synchronous Zoom video conferences on Mondays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:00 pm PDT from July 6 to 23. For each session, participants are to post thoughts on the readings or video lectures to the discussion forum. You are also expected to watch and review a feature film from Korea and to visit and review a website that includes content on Korea. To earn credit for the course, you also need to produce a set of curriculum lessons for use with your own students.

#### Schedule

Mon 7/6      **Introduction**

What was there before the two Koreas? What should we know about Korean history?

Video: Introduction and 5 Things to Know about the Two Koreas

Reading: *Korea at a Glance*, infographics

Thurs 7/9      **1945-1994**

How did Kim Il Sung establish a communist monarchy? How did the Korean War and Cold War shape the two Koreas through 1994?

Video: The Two Koreas in the Kim Il Sung era (1948-1994): The Korean War and the Cold War

Readings:

Michael E. Robinson, *Korea's Twentieth-Century Odyssey: A Short History* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007), 114-120.

Ji-Yeon Yuh, "Beyond Numbers: The Brutality of the Korean War," in Korea Policy Institute, *Korea Policy Institute Reader: US Policy and Korea* (2018), 2-7. (The rest of the reader is for your reference only.)

Heonik Kwon and Byung-Ho Chung, "North Korea's Partisan Family State," *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, vol 10, issue 28, no. 1, July 9, 2012, <https://apjif.org/2012/10/28/Heonik-Kwon/3789/article.html>.

Andrei Lankov, *The Real North Korea: Life and Politics in the Failed Stalinist Utopia*, rev. ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015), 52-76. (Only 52-76 is assigned; 3-51 optional)

### Mon 7/13      **1994-2011**

How did Kim Jong Il ensure regime survival? How did South Korea's Sunshine Policy change international relations?

Video: The Two Koreas in the Kim Jong Il era (1994-2011): Nuclearization and the Sunshine Policy

Readings:

International Atomic Energy Agency, "Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons," <https://www.iaea.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/infcircs/1970/infcirc140.pdf>.

Ilpyong J. Kim, "Kim Jong Il's Military-First Politics," in *North Korea: The Politics of Regime Survival*, ed. Young Whan Kihl and Hong Nack Kim (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2006), 59-74.

Andrei Lankov, *The Real North Korea: Life and Politics in the Failed Stalinist Utopia*, rev. ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015), 77-110.

### Thurs 7/16      **2011 to the present**

How has Kim Jong Un forged his own path for the Kim dynasty? How worried should we be about North Korea?

Video: The Two Koreas in the Kim Jong Un era (2011-)

Readings:

Jieun Baek, "The Opening of the North Korean Mind: Pyongyang Versus the Digital Underground," *Foreign Affairs*, November 28, 2016, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/north-korea/2016-11-28/opening-north-korean-mind>.

Rick Noack and Joyce Lee, "The Historic Kim-Moon Meeting as It Unfolded," Washington Post, April 27, 2018, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2018/04/27/the-historic-kim-moon-meeting-as-it-unfolded/>.

CNN, "Full Text of Trump-Kim Statement," June 12, 2018, <https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/12/politics/read-full-text-of-trump-kim-signed-statement/index.html>.

Robin Wright, "The Trump-Kim Summit: Reality TV or a New Era?," *The New Yorker*, June 12, 2018, <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-trump-kim-nuclear-summit-a-baffling-lack-of-details>.

Christopher R. Hill, "The U.S. Needs a New North Korea Strategy After Singapore's Failure, It's Time to Change Course," *Foreign Affairs*, September 5, 2018, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/north-korea/2018-09-05/us-needs-new-north-korea-strategy>.

David E. Sanger and Edward Wong, "How the Trump-Kim Summit Failed: Big Threats, Big Egos, Bad Bets," *The New York Times*, March 2, 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/02/world/asia/trump-kim-jong-un-summit.html>.

Scott A. Snyder, "Trump-Kim DMZ Meeting: Is Kim Jong-un Foil, Friend, or Foe?" Council on Foreign Relations, July 1, 2019, <https://www.cfr.org/blog/trump-kim-dmz-meeting-kim-jong-un-foil-friend-or-foe>.

Paul Farhi, "Kim Jong Un Appears to Be Alive After All: So Why Did CNN and Other News Outlets Report He Was On His Deathbed?," *The Washington Post*, May 5, 2020, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/media/kim-jong-un-appears-to-be-alive-after-all-so-how-did-his-death-make-the-news/2020/05/05/e9cf7f0e-8d6c-11ea-a0bc-4e9ad4866d21\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/media/kim-jong-un-appears-to-be-alive-after-all-so-how-did-his-death-make-the-news/2020/05/05/e9cf7f0e-8d6c-11ea-a0bc-4e9ad4866d21_story.html).

## Mon 7/20      **South Korea Today**

What are society and culture like in South Korea today?

Video: Society and Culture in South Korea

Readings:

James Palmer and Ga-Young Park, "South Koreans Learn to Love the Other," *Foreign Policy*, July 16, 2018, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/07/16/south-koreans-learn-to-love-the-other-multiculturalism/>.

Victoria Kim, "Empowered by #MeToo, a New Generation Fights Sexual Abuse in South Korea's Schools," *Los Angeles Times*, February 22, 2019, <https://www.latimes.com/world/asia/la-fg-south-korea-metoo-schools-20190222-story.html>.

Anthony Kuhn, "South Korean Women 'Escape the Corset' and Reject Their Country's Beauty Ideals," NPR.com, <https://www.npr.org/2019/05/06/703749983/south-korean-women-escape-the-corset-and-reject-their-countrys-beauty-ideals>.

Justin McCurry, "Spycams, Sex Abuse and Scandal: #MeToo reaches Korean Pop," *The Guardian*, March 22, 2019, <https://www.theguardian.com/music/2019/mar/22/metoo-k-pop-music-industry-sexual-assault-scandals-korean-cultural-life>.

Troy Stangarone, "Gender Inequality Makes South Korea Poorer," *The Diplomat*, June 14, 2019, <https://thediplomat.com/2019/06/gender-inequality-makes-south-korea-poorer/>.

Kelly Kasulis, "New Arrest Amid Nationwide Anger Over S Korea 'Sextortion' Case," Al Jazeera, May 11, 2020, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/05/arrest-nationwide-anger-korea-sextortion-case-200511031427033.html>.

Jenna Gibson, "South Korea's Elderly Face Unique Challenges From COVID-19," The Diplomat, June 4, 2020, <https://thediplomat.com/2020/06/south-koreas-elderly-face-unique-challenges-from-covid-19/>.

Ophelie Surcouf, "Gender and Genre: BTS versus Blackpink," *Asia Times*, May 17, 2019,

Optional: Ruth Holliday and Joanna Elfving-Hwang, "Gender, Globalization and Aesthetic Surgery in South Korea," *Body & Society* 18 no. 2 (2012): 58-81.

Thurs 7/23 Depictions of North Korea

How is North Korea seen by outsiders?

Video: The Two Koreas as Depicted in Film, Literature, and Popular Culture

Readings:

Asia Society, "Movie Review: Ode to My Father (Korean title: Gukje Shijang)," <https://asiasociety.org/korea/movie-review-ode-my-father-korean-title-gukje-shijang>.

Barbara Demick, *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea* (New York: Spiegel and Grau, 2009), 174-184.

Hwang Sunwŏn, "Cranes," in *Flowers of Fire: Twentieth-Century Korean Stories*, ed. Peter H. Lee (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1986), 86-91.

Jennifer Jung-Kim, "South Korean Cinema and Inter-Korea Relations, 200-2007), in *Corea: Una Vision Interdisciplinaria*, ed. Wonjung Min (Santiago: Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, 2010), 113-124.

Hyeonseo Lee with David John, *The Girl with Seven Names: Escape from North Korea* (London: William Collins, 2015), 48-53.

Eli Meixler, "What to Know About Kim Jong Un's Favorite All-Female Pop Group Moranbong," Time, January 16, 2018, <https://time.com/5103724/north-korea-moranbong-band-winter-olympics/>.

Amy Qin, "North Korean Orchestra Gives an Emotional Concert in the South," *The New York Times*, February 8, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/08/world/asia/north-korea-orchestra-olympics.html>.

Meredith Shaw, "Insight: Reading between the Lines at North Korea's Fiction Factory," *Statesman*, March 10, 2018, <https://www.statesman.com/news/20180310/insight-reading-between-the-lines-at-north-koreas-fiction-factory>

Optional: Paul Fischer, *A Kim Jong Il Production* (New York: Flatiron Books, 2015), 59-72.

## Recommended readings

Bruce Cumings, *North Korea: Another Country* (New York: The New Press, 2004).  
Accessible and balanced book about North Korea by America's foremost scholar of the Korean War.

Bruce Cumings, *The Korean War*, reprint (New York: Modern Library Chronicles, 2011).  
The definitive single volume on the Korean War from the scholar who says all sides share blame for the Korean War.

Barbara Demick, *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea* (New York: Spiegel and Grau, 2009).  
Engaging book written by an LA Times columnist about ordinary North Koreans, focusing on the journeys of a few defectors.

Paul Fischer, *A Kim Jong Il Production* (New York: Flatiron Books, 2015).  
"The extraordinary true story of a kidnapped filmmaker, his star actress, and a young dictator's rise to power" [quote from cover] .

Kyung Moon Hwang, *A History of Korea*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: Palgrave, 2016).  
Accessible textbook on Korean history as told in "episodes."

Korea Policy Institute, *Korea Policy Institute Reader: US Policy and Korea* (2018).

Andrei Lankov, *The Real North Korea: Life and Politics in the Failed Stalinist Utopia*, rev. ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015).  
Insightful book on North Korea looking at both the rulers and the ruled.

Hyeonseo Lee with David John, *The Girl with Seven Names: Escape from North Korea* (London: William Collins, 2015).  
Credible account of a defector who left North Korea and then got her mother and brother out.

Sangjoon Lee and Abe Mark Nornes, eds., *Hallyu 2.0: The Korean Wave in the Age of Social Media* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2015).  
Edited anthology useful to understanding the many facets of the Korean Wave.

Michael E. Robinson, *Korea's Twentieth-Century Odyssey: A Short History* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007).  
Brief historical overview of the two Koreas with clear chapters on the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## General Resources on Korea

Asia for Educators, Primary sources with DBQs  
[http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/main\\_pop/ps/ps\\_korea.htm](http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/main_pop/ps/ps_korea.htm)  
33 primary source selections on Korea with DBQs

Association for Asian Studies Education About Asia website  
<https://www.asian-studies.org/Publications/EAA/About>  
Thematic issues devoted to specific countries or themes. Articles are generally written by scholars affiliated with AAS, the largest organization of academics of Asia.

Columbia University Expanding East Asian Studies  
<http://www.exeas.org/>  
Syllabi and curriculum planning materials on East Asia.

Mary Connor, Teaching East Asia: Korea, Lessons and Resources for K-12 Classrooms, 3d ed. (Los Angeles: National Korean Studies Seminar and the Korean Cultural Center Los Angeles, 2018)  
<https://view.joomag.com/teaching-east-asia-korea-3rd-edition/M0002577001529220071>

Friends of Korea and Gerard A. KRZIC, *Study Guide to Accompany The Korean Transformation* (DVD)  
Teaching resources on Korea.  
[Contact@friendsofkorea.net](mailto:Contact@friendsofkorea.net)

*The Asia Pacific Journal: Japan Focus*  
<https://apjif.org>  
Despite its name, this website has many excellent and timely articles pertaining to Korea.

Korea Foundation  
<http://en.kf.or.kr/?menuno=3722>  
Korea Foundation website. Useful links on finding out more about Korea.

*Korea Journal*  
<http://www.ekoreajournal.net/>  
English-language journal from Korea. Not as accessible for high-school students as *Koreana*, but also good source of articles that are not as difficult as most other academic journals.

Korea Society  
K-12 curriculum materials  
[http://www.koreasociety.org/korean\\_studies\\_curriculum\\_materials/view\\_category.html](http://www.koreasociety.org/korean_studies_curriculum_materials/view_category.html)  
Website includes numerous lesson plans on a wide range of subjects for both primary and secondary levels. Please note that the lessons plans vary greatly in quantity and quality.

<http://www.koreasociety.org/>  
Their general website also has useful links. The Korea Society also sponsors a summer trip to Korea for teachers.

Korean Cultural Center, Los Angeles  
[www.kccla.org](http://www.kccla.org)

Los Angeles branch of the Korean Cultural Center. Governmental agency that promotes Korean history and culture to local audiences. Hosts field trips as well as numerous workshops, films, and performances on Korea. Also offers low-cost Tuesday evening classes on Korean language.

Korean Film Website

[www.koreanfilm.org](http://www.koreanfilm.org)

Website provides synopses of most South Korean films. Organized by year, and includes good thematic essays.

Korean Film Archive channel on YouTube

<http://www.youtube.com/user/koreanfilm>

Subtitled, mostly older Korean films, but free and legally open-source.

Korean Overseas Information Service

[www.korea.net](http://www.korea.net)

Official website of the Korean Overseas Information Service.

*Koreana*

<http://www.koreana.or.kr/>

English-language journal from Korea with easy-to-read short articles on Korea.

*Los Angeles Times*

<http://www.latimes.com>

The *Los Angeles Times* has many articles on Korean politics, society, and culture.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art, *The Arts of Korea: A Resource for Educators* (2001)

<http://www.metmuseum.org/~media/Files/Learn/For%20Educators/Publications%20for%20Educators/korea.pdf>

*The New York Times*

<https://www.nytimes.com>

*The New York Times* has many timely articles on Korean politics, society, and culture.

North Korean Films

<https://northkoreanfilms.com/>