

Syllabus (2025-Winter)

Course Title	North Korea: The Most Secretive Country	Course No.	11510
Credit	2 credits	Hours	30 Hours
Class Time Classroom	Mon to Fri (12:30-15:00) Classroom TBA		
Instructor	Name: Hwajung Kim	Department: Graduate School of International Studies	
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Office Hours Office Location			

I. Course Overview

1. Course Description

This course aims to enhance students' overall understanding of contemporary North Korea, the most secretive country, by exploring the country through various perspectives: the political structure, the economic system, foreign relations, society, and culture. North Korea, regardless of preconceived images as a rogue state or impossible state, has sustained its sovereign state status for over 70 years. What makes its overhaul and survival possible while other socialists collapse? This course will provide students with a close investigation of the existing system of contemporary North Korea and further understandings of the geopolitics in the Northeast region.

2. Prerequisites

No background needed

3. Course Format

Lecture	Discussion/Presentation	Assignments	Activities	Other
70%	20%	10%	%	%

4. Course Objectives

- To explore the various aspects of contemporary North Korea

5. Evaluation Systems

☐ Relative evaluation ☒ Absolute evaluation (for Ewha International Summer College students only) ☐ Others

Midterm	Final	Quizzes	Presentation	Projects	Assignments	Participation	Attendance
- %	- %	- %	10%	30%	20%	30%	10%

II. Course Materials and Additional Readings

1. Required Materials

Lecture slides for every class on cyber campus

2. Supplementary Materials

Supplementary materials will be uploaded on cyber campus, if necessary.

3. Optional Additional Readings

III. Course Schedule

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 1	(12/26)	Introduction of the Course: North Korea, the Most Secretive Country
Day 2	(12/29)	The Foundation and Development of North Korea: Juche Ideology Topics: 1) political system, 2) Great Leader Kim Il-sung, 3) Dear Leader Kim Jung-il
Day 3	(12/30)	North Korean Leaders: the Kim Family, the Cult of Personality Topics: 1) political ideology, 2) the deification of leaders
Day 4	(12/31)	The Transformation of North Korean Economy Topics: 1) economic planning system, 2) structural transformation
Day 5	(1/2)	The <i>Jangmadang</i> Generation (the Millennials and Gen Z) in North Korea Watch a documentary film and discuss
Day 6	(1/5)	North Korea's Nuclear Diplomacy Topics: 1) North Korean foreign policy, 2) nuclear weapons
Day 7	(1/6)	Sino-North Korean and Russia-North Korea Relations Topics: 1) authoritarian regimes, 2) the influence of China, 3) diplomatic ties with Russia
Day 8	(1/7)	Cultural Policy and Practice of North Korea Topics: 1) politicization of culture, 2) cultural products, 3) cultural actors
Day 9	(1/8)	North Korea's Popular Culture Topics: 1) the influence of South Korea's cultural wave, 2) capitalist culture
Day 10	(1/9)	Peace Process on the Korean Peninsula
Makeup Classes 1	(mm/dd)	
Makeup Classes 2	(mm/dd)	

IV. Special Accommodations

* According to the University regulation section #57-3, students with disabilities can request for special accommodations related to attendance, lectures, assignments, or tests by contacting the course professor at the beginning of semester. Based on the nature of the students' request, students can receive support for such accommodations from the course professor or from the Support Center for Students with Disabilities (SCSD). Please refer to the below examples of the types of support available in the lectures, assignments, and evaluations.

Lecture	Assignments	Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Visual impairment: braille, enlarged reading materials . Hearing impairment: note-taking assistant . Physical impairment : access to classroom, note-taking assistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra days for submission, alternative assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Visual impairment: braille examination paper, examination with voice support, longer examination hours, note-taking assistant . Hearing impairment: written examination instead of oral examination . Physical impairment: longer examination hours, note-taking assistant

- Actual support may vary depending on the course.

* The contents of this syllabus are not final—they may be updated.