An examination of North Korea—the world’s last major hermit society. Since the division of the Korean peninsula in 1945, South Korea has developed into one of the largest trading nations in the world with a democratic polity, while North Korea has descended into a perpetually aid-dependent state that maintains domestic control through extreme repression. Isolated, destitute, totalitarian, and ruled by a communist hereditary dictatorship, North Korea remains, in spite of various attempts at engagement by its neighbors, “the most perfected totalitarian state” the world has ever known. Despite more than 25 years of severe food shortage, the priorities of the regime remain military build-up through “military-first politics,” deification of the ruling family through extravagant propaganda campaigns, and control through the operation of extensive political prisoner concentration camps. What does the future hold for North Korea under Kim Jong Un? Emphasis on the Kim Il Sung-Kim Jong Il-Kim Jong Un continuum, strategy of brinkmanship, human rights problems, nuclear politics, and the implications of regime preservation or collapse.

General requirements:

1. Take-home final examination (30% of the final grade), due 11:59 PM, May 4
2. Final paper, 10 double-spaced pages (40%), due 11:59 PM, April 30
3. Oral presentation, class attendance, and participation (30%). Depending on the size of the class, attendance in an extra Friday session for student oral presentations.

Books recommended for purchase:

DHP P275: North Korean State and Society

Spring 2020

Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 21 (Tue)</td>
<td>Introduction: North Korean Exceptionalism</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>The Emergence of the Two Koreas</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 3</td>
<td>The North Korean Communist Experiment</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>The Korean War</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 17</td>
<td>Kim Il Sung Ideology and the North Korean Mindset (Classes held)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>Leaning on Two Sides: Diplomacy during the Cold War</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>The North Korean Economy: Between Crisis and Catastrophe</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Deterring the Engager: Strategies of Brinkmanship</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 23</td>
<td>The North Korean Nuclear Threat</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30</td>
<td>The North Korean Famine: A Catastrophe Non-Pareil</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Student oral presentations begin March 30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6</td>
<td>Human Rights and Crimes against Humanity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>The Comprehensive North Korea Problem in the Post-9/11 Era</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>No classes (Patriots’ Day)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 27</td>
<td>Theory of Victory or the Long Goodbye? (last class)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Reading Assignments

To be completed by:

**January 21 (Tue): Introduction to the Course**

No reading assignment.


**Read 1-95 by February 17; 96-211 by March 23; 212-330 by end of class, April 27.**


**Read 1-102 by February 17; 103-210 by March 23; 211-294 by end of class, April 17.**

**January 27: The Emergence of the Two Koreas**


**February 3: The North Korean Communist Experiment**


February 10: The Korean War


February 17: Kim Il Sung Ideology and the North Korean Mindset


Andrei Lankov, *North of the DMZ*, 1-95.


February 24: Leaning on Two Sides: Diplomacy during the Cold War


March 2: The North Korean Economy: Between Crisis and Catastrophe


**March 9: Deterring the Engager: Strategies of Brinkmanship**


**March 23: The North Korean Nuclear Threat**


*Andrei Lankov, North of the DMZ*, 96-211. Read 212-330 by end of class, April 27.

*Barbara Demick, Nothing To Envy*, 103-210. Read 211-294 by end of class, April 27.

**March 30: The North Korean Famine: A Catastrophe Non-Pareil**


**Student Oral Presentations begin on this day**

**April 6: Human Rights and Crimes Against Humanity**


Begin reading (read as much as you can):

UN Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in North Korea (2014), full draft:  


**April 13: The Comprehensive North Korea Problem in the Post-9/11 Era**


**April 27: Theory of Victory or the Long Goodbye?**


**Andrei Lankov, North of the DMZ, 212-330.**

**Barbara Demick, Nothing To Envy, 211-294.**