This course examines a number of key controversies in contemporary Korea (South and North). We will examine such topics as the Japanese empire and comfort women, North Korea and human rights, China and K-pop, nationalism and history writing, the Korean War, military junta governments and authoritarianism, violence and democratization, nuclear power and environmental policy etc. Course requirements include weekly reading (approx. 20-25 pages) assignments, weekly writing (2 pages) assignments, active participation in discussion, and a creative media project. There are no quizzes or exams for this course.