North Korea in the Socialist & Post-Socialist Worlds
Spring 2018
Tuesdays 1:30-4:10 PM
Scott 201

Instructor: Professor Kim
Email: suzykim@rutgers.edu
Office: Scott 336
Office Hours: TH 2:00-4:00 PM & by appointment

Course Description
Using historical and contemporary sources including memoirs, fictional works, and films, this course examines the social, political, economic, and cultural developments in North Korea before and after the social revolution (1945-1950) that so radically transformed its society. How did the revolution affect gender relations and the status of women, the economy, domestic and international politics, cultural production, and aspects of everyday life? Why does North Korea insist on self-reliance even while espousing Third World internationalism? What is “our style” socialism when most other socialist states have either disappeared or adopted market reforms? By situating North Korea within the context of regional and global developments, including the history of colonialism, modernity, and socialism, the course seeks to understand North Korea’s past, current predicaments, and future prospects.

Course Goals
- Understand North Korean history, politics, culture, and society, leading to critical analyses of contemporary issues surrounding the region.
- Examine key historical concepts such as colonialism, revolution, socialism, and modernity.
- Read and interpret texts and visual materials as historical sources for the past and the present, critically assessing their reliability and credibility.
- Write clearly and concisely, synthesizing multiple texts, to make persuasive and insightful arguments.

Course Structure
Classes will include combinations of lectures, discussions, and student presentations. Each week, students are responsible for submitting one weekly written response no later than 6 pm the day before class, which should lay out a critical understanding and analysis of the readings, and 1 or 2 questions to bring up for class discussion. Students are also required to make one oral presentation based the issues raised by the week’s readings.

Requirements & Grade Distribution (based on a maximum of 100 points)
Class Attendance & Participation 10 Points
Oral Presentation 10 Points
Weekly Responses (~300 words) 25 Points (2 points each week - 1)
Midterm Paper (5-6 double-spaced pages, 12 pt font) 25 Points
Final Paper (6-8 double-spaced pages, 12 pt font) 30 Points

For graduate students, writing and reading requirements are amended as follows:
Weekly Responses (~500 words)
Midterm Paper (6-8 double-spaced pages, 12 pt)
Final Paper (8-10 double-spaced pages, 12 pt)
Additional Recommended Readings

All required readings are available on the course Sakai site
01:098:444 Seminar on East Asian Societies
Spring 2018
T/TH 4:30-5:50 PM
Murray 207

Instructor: Professor Kim
Email: suzykim@rutgers.edu
Office: Scott Hall 336
Office Hours: TH 2:00 – 4:00 PM & by appointment

Course Description
In this course we will examine the major political, social, and cultural issues of modern East Asia (China, Japan, Korea) from the nineteenth century to the present, such as East Asian modernity, colonial identity, notions of love and domesticity, memories of war, and contemporary popular culture. These issues will be approached from a variety of disciplinary perspectives including textual analysis, visual studies, social history, women’s and gender studies, and transnational studies. A comparative understanding of the three societies will be encouraged. This semester, the seminar emphasizes the shifting constructions of femininity and masculinity, women’s and men’s experiences and roles in social change in East Asia. We will examine how gender intersects with social, political, economic, and cultural developments in modern East Asia. The course will also provide a systematic introduction to the research process and equip students with the necessary knowledge and skills to understand major issues in the context of East Asian cultures and societies. Although no knowledge of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean language is required, the course assumes that students have a basic familiarity with at least one of the three countries covered as part of East Asia.

Course Goals
- Explain the nuances of major social and cultural issues pertaining to gender in modern East Asia
- Identify how arguments are constructed in different disciplines and assess the validity or limitations of such arguments
- Formulate one’s own research question, devise a research plan, take advantage of current scholarships, and make critical approaches to major issues in East Asian societies
- Communicate research findings in writing and orally in a mode appropriate to one’s area of inquiry and target audience

Core Curriculum Goals
III: Cognitive Skills and Processes
A: Writing and Communication
  s. (s1) Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience.
   (s2) Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision.
  t. Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry.
  u. Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly.
  v. Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.
C: Information Technology and Research
  y. Employ current technologies to access information, to conduct research, and to communicate findings.
  z. Analyze and critically assess information from traditional and emergent technologies.
Departmental Learning Goals for East Asian Languages and Area Studies (214)
Majors will be able to demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the literature and culture of one or more East Asian countries (China, Japan, Korea); effectively use tools (reference works, etc.) and technology appropriate to learning an East Asian language; and, analyze issues concerning East Asia and relate them to other areas in the humanities and social sciences following an interdisciplinary approach.

Course Structure
Classes will include combinations of lectures, discussions, and student presentations. Each week, students are responsible for submitting one weekly written response (~300 words) no later than noon the day of class (Tuesday or Thursday), which should lay out a critical understanding and analysis of the readings, and 1 or 2 questions to bring up for class discussion. Students are also required to make one oral presentation on an aspect of gender in modern East Asia that is relevant to understanding the issues raised by the week’s readings.

Requirements & Grade Distribution (based on a maximum of 100 points)
Class Attendance and Participation 10 Points
Oral Presentation 10 Points
Weekly Response 25 Points (2 points each week + 1)
Midterm Paper (5-6 double-spaced pages, 12 pt font) 20 Points
Final Paper (8-10 double-spaced pages, 12 pt font) 25 Points
  Final Paper Proposal (2 pages) 5 Points
  Final Paper Presentation (~5 minutes) 5 Points

Required Texts (Available for purchase at bookstore & on reserve at Alexander Library)
- Barbara Molony, Janet Theiss, Hyeewol Choi, *Gender in Modern East Asia: China, Korea, Japan: An Integrated History* (Westview Press, 2016) [hereafter GMEA]
Note: Additional readings marked with asterisk (*) posted on Sakai.