Despite the rigid and durable division between the two countries, the histories of North and South Korea are inextricably connected. This course examines the politics, ideology, and culture of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea from 1945 to the present. We will pay close attention to unexpected similarities shared by the mutually antagonistic postcolonial nation-states, as well as striking ideological differences formed in the incipient cold-war context of the mid-twentieth century. One aim of this course is to provide a firm understanding of the ways in which people in both countries have experienced the numerous political, social, and cultural transformations of the past six-plus decades. The second aim is to foster an awareness of the close relationship between the two Koreas and key global developments and processes of the post-1945 era.

GRADING:

(1) **Class Participation:** Class meetings will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Discussions will focus on our course readings, which I have selected to shed greater light on lecture topics. For this reason, it is essential that you read assigned readings before class and that you come to class ready to share your impressions and pose questions about them. In-class participation will make up 10% of the final grade.

(2) **Papers:** I will assign three short papers (4-5 double-spaced pages, 12-point font). You may choose to write all three of them or you may choose to write only two of them. If you write three papers, then I will use the top two grades to calculate your final grade. If you write two papers, then the two grades you receive will go toward your final grade. Each paper grade will amount to 20% of your final grade. I will provide you with paper topics before the due dates. An A paper should contain the following elements:

   a. A thesis statement
   b. Clear organization, including 2-4 body sections
c. Original and incisive analysis
d. An absolute minimum of spelling and grammatical errors

Good writing requires practice, effort, and feedback. There’s always room for improvement. Please visit the Writing Center if you want assistance in writing: http://writing.wisc.edu/. It is an excellent resource.

(3) **Midterm and Final:** Respectively, the midterm exam and final exam will constitute 20% and 30% of your final grade.

(4) **Recap of Grading:**

Class Participation: 10%
Short Papers: 20% + 20% = 40%
Midterm Exam: 20%
Final Exam: 30%

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Michael E. Robinson, *Korea’s Twentieth Century Odyssey: A Short History* (Readings from this text will appear as “Odyssey” in the course schedule.)

The Michael Robinson text is available four purchase at the University Bookstore. All other readings are in the course reader, which is available at the Humanities Copy Center (1650 Humanities Building). Two sets of the course reader will also be available at College Library Reserves.

**COURSE REGULATIONS:**

(a) Attendance is mandatory. Three unexcused absences will result in an F grade.

(b) Plagiarism – the use of another person’s words or ideas without citation – will not be tolerated in any written assignment. Please consult me or the Writing Center’s guide for more details about what constitutes plagiarism: http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html

(c) Late paper submissions (i.e., anything submitted after class had ended on the due date) will receive a 10-point deduction for each late day. Late papers must be signed, dated, and timed by the administrator at the History
Department front desk. Submit late papers in my mailbox on the fourth floor.

There is one exception. I will accept late papers electronically until midnight of the due date. Late papers submitted on the due date will receive a 5-point deduction. You will then need to submit a hard copy of your paper in my mailbox on the following day. Any late electronic submissions that arrive 12:01 a.m. or later will receive the full 10-point deduction.

(d) Please include the course number (History 600) in the subject line of all emails. I will do my best to respond to your emails quickly, but do understand that it may take some time for me to get back to you. Use common sense. If you write me at 11:30 p.m. on the night before an assignment is due, I may not get back to you until the next morning – if not later. In this sort of situation, you would be better off writing me a day (or three) in advance. Also, expect a slower turn-around time for emails written on weekends.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Thurs., 9/3: Introduction

I. Liberation and National Division

Tues., 9/8: The Politics of Division


Thurs., 9/10: Establishing Separate Nation-States

Odyssey, pp. 100-120

Agnes Davis Kim, *I Married a Korean*, pp. 207-216


Tues., 9/15: The Korean War

Yi Sobang, “I Survived Communist Seoul,” pp. 1-32

Watch video clip at: http://stillpresentpasts.org/film

III. Postcolonial Nationalism in North and South

Thurs., 9/17: Juche Ideology


Kim Yong, Long Road Home, pp. 19-60

Tues., 9/22: Juche Ideology in Action


Thurs., 9/24: Modernization Ideology in South Korea

Park Chung Hee, Our Nation’s Path, pp. 3-6

Choi In-hoon, “The Voice of the Governor General,” in The Voice of the Governor General and Other Stories of Modern Korea, pp. 165-185

IV. The South Korean Politics and Economy

Tues., 9/29: The “Miracle on the Han”

R: Odyssey, pp. 121-146

Korea Development Institute, Korea’s Economy: Past and Present, pp. 300-317
“South Korea’s miracle,” *The Economist* (March 4, 1989), pp. 1-4

*Sources of Korean Tradition, vol. 2*, pp. 400-411

**Thurs., 10/1:** Living Through the Developmental Era


**Tues., 10/6:** Political Democratization

Hagen Koo. “The State, Minjung, and the Working Class in South Korea,” in *State and Society in Contemporary Korea*, pp. 131-162


http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,961106,00.html


http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,964793-1,00.html

*Odyssey*, pp. 167-181

**FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

**Thurs., 10/8:** After the Democratic Transition

In-Yong Rhee, “The Korean Election Shows a Shift in Media Power,” *Nieman Reports* (Spring 2003), pp. 95-96


Vanessa Hua, “South Korea: Everyone’s a Journalist—The Story of OhmyNews.”
Ronda Hauben, “Online Grassroots Journalism and Participatory Democracy in South Korea,” in *Korea Yearbook: Vol. 1*, pp. 61-82.

**V. Midterm Week**

**Tues., 10/13:** Midterm Review

**Thurs., 10/15:** Midterm

**VI. North Korean Economy and Politics**

**Tues., 10/20:** Coping with Economic Crisis

R: *Odyssey*, pp. 146-166

**Thurs., 10/22:** Leadership and Succession

Bruce Cumings, *Korea’s Place in the Sun*, pp. 394-433

Party History Research Institute, *History of Revolutionary Activities of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung*, pp. 3-19

Choe In Su, *Kim Jong Il: The People’s Leader*, pp. 1-6, 33-37

**SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

**VI. Gender in South Korea**

**Tues., 10/27:** Gender and National Development

Chungmoo Choi, “Nationalism and Construction of Gender in Korea,” in *Dangerous Women*, pp. 9-32

Seung-sook Moon, “Begetting the Nation: The Andocentric Discourse of National
History and Tradition in South Korea,” in Dangerous Women, pp. 33-66

Thurs., 10/29: Gender in Contemporary South Korea

Nancy Abelmann, “Women, Mobility, and Desire: Narrating Class and Gender in South Korea,” in Under Construction, pp. 25-53

Tues., 11/3: Gender and (Geo-)politics

Saundra Pollock Sturdevant & Brenda Stoltzfus, Let the Good Times Roll, pp. 166-239

VII. Unification and North Korea Relations

Thurs., 11/5: The Unification Issue

Roy Richard Grinker, Korea and Its Futures, pp. 19-48

Korean Affairs Institute correspondences, 1-20

Tues., 11/10: North Korea Relations


VIII. Migration

Thurs., 11/12: The Korean Diaspora

Charles K. Armstrong, The Koreas, pp. 89-130

Tues., 11/17: Migrants in South Korea


http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/30/world/asia/30brides.html

**Thurs., 11/19:** Koreans in Kazakhstan

**Documentary:** *Koryo Saram: The Unreliable People* (dirs. Y. David Chung and Matt Dibble, 2007)

**THIRD PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

**IX. Anti-American and Anti-Japanese Sentiments**

**Tues., 11/24:** Anti-Americanism


http://english.ohmynews.com/articleview/article_view.asp?menu=c10400&no=229191&rel_no=1

Read short article and listen to interview

**Tues., 12/1:** South Korea and Japan

Ogasawara Hiroki, “Back to the pitch, reclaim the game’: is that only what matters? An outer national reading of the World Cup,” Inter-Asia Cultural Studies 5:1 (April 2004), pp. 27-41.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/30/AR2006083002985.html


X. In Closing

Tues., 12/8: Everyday Life in North Korea


Thurs., 12/10: Closing Thoughts

Odyssey, pp. 182-199

Chang Kyung-Sup, “The End of Developmental Citizenship?,“ Economic and Political Weekly (Dec. 15, 2007), pp. 67-72


Tues, 12/15: Final Exam Review

Fri., 12/18: FINAL EXAM, 10:05 a.m. -12:05 p.m.