

DUKE UNIVERSITY  
SOCIOLOGY 196S.01

Spring 2002  
Tuesday 3:50-6:20 PM  
Sociology/Psychology Building

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**CONTEMPORARY KOREA: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE**

This seminar course is intended to provide an overview of modern Korea. It explores the distinctive nature of Korea within the broad context of East Asian countries. Over the last five decades, Korea has undergone a rapid and drastic societal change. We will look at from where Korea has come and to where it is going. The purpose of this course is to analyze the specific aspects of social, cultural, political, and economic changes in Korea by examining a variety of theoretical perspectives and recent research findings. There is no prior knowledge required about Korea, but some introductory level of knowledge in sociology is highly recommended.

**Course Structure**

Each part consists of the following elements.

Lecture

Discussion

Guest Lecture

Video

**Course Requirements**

All students are expected to attend lectures, take the two examinations, and write a 4 page book review. You are also encouraged to participate in class discussion raising questions and comments. There will be handouts on guide discussion questions based on readings and lectures every meeting.

Grades will be based on the examinations, class participation, and a review paper as follows. Guide questions will be issued for preparation for the final examinations, and the final examination will be drawn on those questions from the guidelines.

Each student's performance will be evaluated on the following criteria.

Mid-term examination	20%
Final Examination	40%
Participation in class discussion	20%
Book Review	20%

Class participants have to write a short book review on one of the two books below. The aim of the book review is to make students familiarize with East Asian countries in general and Korean-Americans in the U. S. in particular. The review must not be longer than four double-spaced pages, and is due at no later than April 27.

Bruce Cumings, *Parallax Visions: Making Sense of American-East Asian Relations at the End of the Century*, Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1999 (Any Two Chapters).

Elaine H. Kim and Eui-Young Yu (eds.), *East to America: Korean-American Life Studies*, New York: New Press, 1996 (Any Two Persons).

### Course Texts

There are not many good books in English that encompass modern Korean society, culture, politics, and economy from a comparative perspective. Listed below are books, some parts of which are required to read for this course. The following books are available from DU Bookstores, and xeroxed copies of the readings are on reserve in the Sociology's Thomson Common Room (# 331).

Leslie Sklair (ed.), *Capitalism and Development*, London: Routledge, 1994.

Hagen Koo (ed.), *State and Society in Contemporary Korea*, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1993.

Peter L. Berger and H. Michael Hsiao (eds.), *In search of An East Asian Development Model*, New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Books, 1988.

George A. DeVos and Takao Sofue (eds.), *Religion and Family in East Asia*, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1984.

Hyun-Chin Lim, 1985. *Dependent Development in Korea, 1961-1979*, Seoul: Seoul National University.

Donald S. Macdonald, *The Koreans: Contemporary Politics and Society*, Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1990.

Carter Eckert *et al.*, *Korea: Old and New, A History*, Cambridge, MA: Korea Institute, Harvard University Press, 1990.

Larry Diamond and Byung-Kook Kim (eds.), *Consolidating Democracy in South Korea*, Boulder and London: Lynne Rienner, 2000.

Eun Mee Kim (ed.), *The Four Asian Tigers: Economic Development and the Global*

*Political Economy*, San Diego: Academic Press, 1998.

Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao (ed.), *East Asian Middle Classes in Comparative Perspective*, Taipei: Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, 1999.

Noland, Macus, 2000. *Avoiding the Apocalypse: The Future of the Two Koreas*, Washington, DC: Institute of International Economics.

## **Topics**

This course is organized topically rather than chronologically. Part I considers competing theoretical perspectives in explaining modern Korea. Part II surveys the country's development experience over the past decades. Part III focuses on the changes in social structure and cultural values. Part IV deals with political issues of democratization, social movements, and reunification.

Week 1 (Jan. 15) Course Introduction and Historical Overview of Korea

### Part I. Theoretical Perspectives

Week 2 (Jan. 22) Industrial Society Approach and Capitalist Society Approach

Week 3 (Jan. 29) Post-Modernist Theories (Film on East Asia)

### Part II. Development Experience

Week 4 (Feb. 5) The Korean Development in an East Asian Context

Week 5 (Feb. 12) Economic Growth and Welfare

Week 6 (Feb. 19) IMF's Structural Adjustment (Film on Korea)

Week 7 (Feb. 26) Mid-term Exam

### Part III. Social Structure and Cultural Values

Week 8 (Mar. 5) Population and Urbanization (Film on Market and Rice Cultivation)

Week 9 (Mar. 12) Spring Break

Week 10 (Mar. 19) Family and Kinship (Film on Head Family and Ancestor Worship)

Week 11 (Mar. 26) Class and Stratification (Guest Lecture: Dr. Markus Pohlman)

Week 12 (April 2) Culture and Religion (Film on Religion and Shamanism)

#### Part IV. Political Development

Week 13 (April 9) Civil Society and Social Movements (Mr. Sukki Kong)

Week 14 (April 16) Democratic Transition and Consolidation

Week 15 (April 23) Reunification of Two Koreas (Film on North Korea)

Week 16 (April 30) Final Exam.

#### **Reading List** (\* indicates required readings)

1. \*Macdonald, D., The Koreans, Chap. 1, Introduction: Land, People, Problems, pp. 1-24 and Chap. 2, Historical Background, pp. 25-66.

\*Eckert, C. *et al.*, Korea, Chap. 19, Authoritarianism and Protest, 1948-1990, pp. 348-388.

Lim, Hyun-Chin, "Social Sciences in Korea: Challenges, Dilemma, and Solution," Journal of Korean Studies, vol. 2, pp. 71-94.

2. \*Giddens, A., Sociology: A Brief but Critical Introduction, London: Macmillan, 1982, Chap. 2, Competing Interpretations: Industrial Society or Capitalism, pp. 29-53.

\*Tiriyakian, E. A., On the Shoulders of Weber and Durkheim: East Asia and Emergent Modernity, Kim, Kyong-Dong and Soo-Hoon Lee (eds.), Asia in the 21st Century: Challenges and Prospects, Seoul: Panmun Book Co., 1990, pp. 3-25.

Rapley, J., Understanding Development: Theory and Practice in the Third World, Boulder and London: Lynne Rienner, 1996, pp. 5-26.

3. \*Giddens, A., The Consequences of Modernity, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1990, pp. 151-173.

\*McMichael Philip, Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective, Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, 1996, pp. 241-258.

Beck, U., "The Reinvention of Politics: Towards a Theory of Reflexive Modernization," U.

- Beck, A. Giddens, and S. Lash, Reflexive Modernization: Politics, Tradition and Aesthetics in the Modern Social Order, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1994, pp. 1-55.
4. \*Hsiao, H-H. M., An East Asian Development Model: Empirical Explorations, Berger and Hsiao, In Search of An East Asian Development Model, pp. 12-23.
- \*Lim, Hyun-Chin, "Development Strategy and Restructuring in South Korea: Changing State-Capital-Labor Relationship," The Institute for Social Development and Policy Research, Seoul National University Press, Working Paper #10, 1999.8.27.
- Kim, Kyong-Dong, The Distinctive Features of South Korean Development, Berger and Hsiao, In Search of An East Asian Development Model, pp. 197-219.
5. \*Haggard, Stepan. and Chung-In Moon, The State, Politics, and Economic Development in Postwar South Korea, Koo, State and Society, pp. 51-93.
- \*Song, Ho-Keun, Politics of Crisis Management and Social Policy in South Korea," Mimeo, 2001.
- Shin, Kwang Yeong, "The Political Economy of Economic Growth in East Asia: South Korea and Taiwan," Eun Mee Kim, The Four Asian Tigers, pp. 3-32.
6. \*Lim, Hyun-Chin, "The Political Economy of Structural Adjustment in South Korea: Reality and Facade," "A Paper presented at the 12th Annual Meeting on Socio-Economics, London, England, July 5-10, 2000.
- \*Lim, Hyun-Chin and Suk-Man Hwang, "A New Wine in a New Bottle?": The Social and Political Realignment under Restructuring in South Korea," Journal of International and Area Studies, 8(1), 2001, pp. 1-18.
- Krugman, P., The Return of Depression Economics, New York and London: W. W. Norton and Co., 1999, 83-101.
8. \*Kim, Kyong-Dong, "Social Change and Societal Development in Korea since 1945: Modernization with Uneven Development," Korea and World Affairs, 8, pp. 756-788.

\*Kwon, Tai-Hwan and Kwang Hee Jun, Rural-Urban Migration and Social Mobility of Individuals, Korea Journal of Population and Development, 19(2), December 1990, pp. 113-134.

Dong, Wonmo, "Regional Cleavages in South Korean Politics," Korea Observer, 26(2), pp. 1-26.

10. \*Lee, Kwang Kyu, Family and Religion in Traditional and Contemporary Korea, DeVos and Sofue, Religion and Family, pp. 185-200.

\*Lee, Kwang Kyu, Ancestor Worship and Kinship Structure in Korea, L. Kendall and G. Dix (eds.), Religion and Ritual in Korean Society, Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, 1987, pp. 56-70.

Cho, Hae Joang, Male Dominance and Mother Power: The Two Sides of Confucian Patriarchy in South Korea, Asian Women, 2, 1996, pp. 77-104.

11. \*Koo, Hagan, From Farm to Factory: Proletarianization in Korea, American Sociological Review, 55, October 1990, pp. 669-681.

\*Hong, Doo-Seung, "Profiles of the Korean Middle Class," Hsin-Huang Michael Hsiao (ed.), East Asian Middle Classes in Comparative Perspective, Taipei: Institute of Ethnology, Academia Sinica, 1999, pp. 101-125.

Yang, Jonghoe Yang, "Class Culture or Culture Class? Lifestyles and Cultural Tastes of Korean Middle Class," Ibid., pp. 319-363.

12. \*JaHyun Haboush, Confucianization of Korean Society, G. Rozman (ed.), The East Asian Region: Confucian Heritage and Its Modern Adaptation, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1991, pp. 98-110.

\*Kim, Uchang, The Agony of Cultural Construction: Politics and Culture in Modern Korea, Koo, State and Society, pp. 163-197.

Yang, Jonghoe and Hyun-Chin Lim, Asian Values in Capitalist Development Revisited," Asian Perspective, 24(3), 2000, pp. 23-40.

13. \*Kim, Sunhyuk, The Politics of Democratization in Korea: The Role of Civil Society, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2000, pp. 105-136.
- \*Kim, Byung-Kook and Hyun-Chin Lim, "Labor Against Itself: Structural Dilemmas of State Monism," Diamond and Kim, Consolidating Democracy, pp. 111-138.
- Choi, Jang Jip, Political Cleavages in South Korea, Koo, State and Society, pp. 13-50.
14. \*Im, Hyug-Baek, South Korean Democratic Consolidation in Comparative Perspective, Diamond and Kim, Consolidating Democracy, pp. 21-52.
- \*Steinberg, David I., "Continuing Democratic Reform: The Unfinished Symphony," Diamond and Kim, Consolidating Democracy, pp. 203-238.
- Lim, Hyun-Chin and Ho-Keun Song, "The State and Society in Democratic Consolidation of South Korea," Jin-Young Suh and Changrok Soh (eds.), The World After the Cold War: Issues and Dilemmas, Seoul: Graduate School of International Studies, Korea University, 1999, pp. 163-182.
15. \*Noland, Avoiding the Apocalypse, Chap. 9. Can the North Muddle through? pp. 323-345.
- \*Lim, Hyun-Chin, Jonghoe Yang, and Young-Chul Chung, "How to Promote Social and Cultural Exchange between South Korea and North Korea: Lessons from German Reunification," A Paper presented at the 14th Annual Meeting of the Society for Socio-Economics, Amsterdam, Netherlands, June 29-July 3, 2001.
- Oberdorfer, Don, The Two Koreas: A Contemporary History, New York: Basic Books, 1997, Chap. 1, pp. 376-408.

### **Discussion Questions**

2

- 1) Name any sociological theory with which you are familiar. Compare that theory with industrial society approach and capitalist society approach in terms of underlying assumptions.
- 2) What are the major merits and demerits of Weberian framework in studying contemporary

capitalism?

- 3) Given the collapse of the existing socialism, does it make sense to analyze modern society in light of Marxist categories?
- 4) Which approach do you think is more appropriate in explaining social change in Korea? Compare and contrast the basic tenets of those approaches with regard to Korean society, commenting on its strengths and weaknesses.

3

- 1) Do you agree with Giddens' conceptualization of radicalized modernity? In what ways does it differ from post-modernity?
- 2) Think about the strengths and weaknesses of the new paradigm compared with industrial society approach and capitalist society approach?
- 3) What are the role of old and new social movements in creating post-modern social order?
- 4) With any article or book on East Asia you have read, discuss any aspect that you think is different from Western societies.

4

- 1) What ideas (or stereotypes) spring to mind when you think about 'Japan', 'China/Taiwan', 'South/North Korea', 'Singapore'?
- 2) What advantages and disadvantages have Korea had as a late-late developer?
- 3) Do you agree that there is a single East Asian model of development? Explain what features of the East Asian model can or cannot be copied.
- 4) Some people have called the rise of Gang of Four a Confucian Revolution. What features critical to Korea's economic advance can you trace to East Asian values and Korean religion?

5

- 1) How useful is the idea of Korea, INC. in depicting government-business relations in Korea?

- 2) Can you talk about the Korean state as an actor pursuing its own interests?
  - 3) How has Korea changed its long-term industrial strategy in taking account of its comparative advantage?
  - 4) In evaluating the causes of Korean economic development, would you consider yourself a culturalist or an institutionalist? How well does your viewpoint explain Korea's economic advance?
- 6.
- 1) How can you describe the Korean approach to structural adjustment? Is it neoliberal, neoconservative, or neocorporatist?
  - 2) Do you agree with the argument that the IMF's structural adjustment programs are supposed to weaken the state in developing countries?
  - 3) Korean economy is vulnerable to outside shock with internal inefficiency. Are there any alternative paradigms of development to the existing one? Examine them in terms of strategy and policies.
  - 4) There are many voices that the present international financial system should be reformed. Why is it that? Suggest your ideas about such reform.
- 8
- 1) What factors are most conducive to controlling population growth in Korea?
  - 2) Do you think industrialization is only one important variable in massive rural-to-urban migration in Korea?
  - 3) If you take consideration into future urban growth in Korea, what policies are effective in population decentralization in rural areas?
  - 4) Regional cleavages are getting worse in recent Korean politics. Suggest any policy measures for coping with political cleavage across regions in Korea.

10

- 1) What major roles does ancestor worship play in Korean family system, kinship structure, and society as a whole?
- 2) Many concerned people are worrying about the breakdown of family in American society. Are there any lessons for the U. S. to learn from Korean family system?
- 3) What are the similarities and differences in lineage system and inheritance custom among China, Japan, and Korea?
- 4) How can you explain an increasing tendency of familism in the form of collectivist egoism in recent Korea?

11

- 1) What are the implications of expanded middle class and organized workers in Korean politics?
- 2) Do you agree with the proletarianization thesis in contemporary Korea?
- 3) Korean middle class is often called opportunistic in its roles during social transformation. Is this an intrinsic nature of middle class across early and late developers? Why is middle class's behavior more dualistic in Korea?
- 4) What kind of class systems have emerged as a result of rapid industrialization in Japan, Korea, and Taiwan?

12

- 1) One of the cliches about Korea today is that while it looks very Western on the surface, it is very Korean underneath. What traditional Korean elements persist in modern Korean society and culture?
- 2) Can you name any difference among Chinese, Japanese, and Korean in a way of thinking and behavior?
- 3) Take an example of any culture that undergoes 'a cyclical process of politicization, depoliticization, and repoliticization'.

4) Why did the anti-Americanism in Korea take place in the early 1980s?

13

1) What positive and negative impacts does Confucianism have on the growth of civil society in modern Korea?

2) How useful do you think is the model of state-civil society in explaining democratic transition and consolidation in Korea?

3) When we talk about old and new social movements in Korea, do you think differences outweigh common goals?

4) While NGOs have recently grown in number, their grassroots are weak. What recommendations do you have for the development of social movement organizations in Korea?

14

1) What are the distinctive feature of democratization process in Korea compared to the experience of South European and Latin American countries?

2) Do you agree with Senior Minister Lee Kwuan Yew arguing that democracy cannot work properly in Asia?

3) Why does not the Labor-Business-Government Tripartite Commission work well in Korea?

4) With the presidential election ahead at the end of 2001, Korean politics are increasingly divided. What are the contributions and limitations of civilian regimes in the democratization process of Korea?

15

1) Do you think totalitarianism is a useful concept in describing the North Korean political system? Which alternative concepts do you have in mind?

2) Why does North Korea face enormous economic difficulties? Explain the economic success until the early 1970s and the subsequent economic failure in North Korea in terms of development policy.

- 3) North Korea is the first socialist country where power succession was made between father and son. Is the cult of personality related with traditional cultural elements or Communist party system?
  
- 4) What impact does the summit meeting of Kim Dae Jung and Kim Jong Il on the future of Korean reunification? Compare and contrast the unification policies of South and North Korea?