SOCIOLOGY 181
SOCIAL CHANGE IN MODERN KOREA
FALL 2017

Instructor: Paul Y. Chang (Harvard University)
Email:
Office:
Office Hours:

Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday: 10:00-11:29

Location:

Course Description

This course explores the incredible transformation of Korean society in the modern period. We begin with the demise of the Chosŏn Dynasty at the end of the 19th century before covering the Japanese colonial period (1910-1945), the emergence of two Korean nation-states (1945-1948), the Korean War (1950-53), and the contemporary period (1960-present). The course is divided into two parts: in the first part of the course we will discuss Korea’s political and economic transformation, and in the second part we will cover social and cultural change. Upon completion of the course students should have a thorough grasp of the vast social changes Korea underwent in the 20th century.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to complete all reading assignments prior to attending the lecture corresponding to the assignment. Lectures will not summarize readings but will build upon them. Students are expected to participate in class discussion. Students will take two examinations, corresponding to the substantive parts of the course. In addition, students will conduct an individual final project exploring an issue related to any of the topics covered in the class and present the analysis in a final paper (15-20 pages).

Course Evaluation

1. Midterm Examination: 30%
2. Final Examination: 30%
3. Final Project: 30%
4. Participation: 10%
Course Reading Materials

1. Course readings available through the Canvas course site.

Policy on Collaboration

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work. For assignments in this course, you are encouraged to consult with your classmates on the choice of paper topics and to share sources. You may find it useful to discuss your chosen topic with your peers, particularly if you are working on the same topic as a classmate. However, you should ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing and that it reflects your own approach to the topic. You must also adhere to standard citation practices in this discipline and properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you receive any help with your writing (feedback on drafts, etc.), you must also acknowledge this assistance.
LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

PART I: POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE

Week 1 (8/31)

Thurs (8/31): Introduction to the Course

Week 2 (9/5 and 9/7)

Tues: The Decline of the Chosŏn Dynasty

Thurs: The Opening of Korea

Week 3 (9/12 and 9/14)

Tues: Colonial Period 1, the Dark Years

Thurs: Colonial Period 2, Cultural Rule

Week 4 (9/19 and 9/21)

Tues: Colonial Period 3, War Mobilization

Thurs: Divided Korea

Week 5 (9/26 and 9/28)

Tues: The Korean War
Thurs: South Korean Economy 1

Week 6 (10/3 and 10/5)

Tues: South Korean Economy 2

Thurs: South Korean Politics

Week 7 (10/10 and 10/12)

Tues: North Korean Politics

Thurs: North Korean Economy

Week 8 (10/17 and 10/19)

Tues: Review

Thurs: MIDTERM EXAMINATION
PART II: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL CHANGE

Week 9 (10/24 and 10/26)

Tues: Gender and Family 1

Thurs: Gender and Family 2

Week 10 (10/31 and 11/2)

Tues: Aging Society and Multicultural Society

Thurs: Guest Lecture (Michael Prentice)

Week 11 (11/7 and 11/9)

Tues: The Korean Diaspora

Thurs: Korean Adoption and Unwed Mothers

Week 12 (11/14 and 11/16)

Tues: Christianity
Thurs: Popular Culture

Week 13 (11/21 and 11/23):

Tues: Final Paper Discussion

Thurs: NO CLASS

Week 14 (11/28 and 11/30):

Tues: Korean Society: Past, Present, and Future

Thurs: Catch Up

*FINAL PAPER: MIDNIGHT, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

*FINAL EXAM: 9AM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 18