History of North Korea
Instructor: C. Harrison Kim | chk7@hawaii.edu

About the course
We examine the history of North Korea from its beginning in the postliberation period (1945) to the present, as North Korea undergoes monumental changes. One important frame is to place North Korea’s history within world history. We begin with the question, what is socialism? We then proceed to looking at North Korea’s history through themes such as “state-formation,” “war-making,” “ideology as state program,” and “culture and art of socialism.” Events and issues like the demise of state-socialism in the early 1990s and North Korea’s nuclear program are also central to our understanding. Finally, the future of North Korea and East Asia is considered in terms of leadership transition, globalization, refugees and migrants, and the possibility of unification. No prerequisites.

How we run the class
Each week is a mixture of lecture and student-led presentations. Tuesdays are lectures and Thursdays are presentations. Most weeks have movies in class. We will also study images and music throughout the semester. Student-led presentations will be scheduled early in the semester. Presentations are a team effort, and each team is to present twice in the semester.

Requirements
1. Each person is to write 12 response papers (out of 14) for full credit, due on Thursday before class, to be posted on Laulima. A response paper should be 500 words long and address the all readings of the week. One part of the response paper is a summary of the readings; the other is opinion and critical assessment, drawing from other sources and experiences. You cannot make up a reading response. However, please talk to me if university commitment or health situation prevents you from timely submission. I will accept late work under special circumstances.
2. We have 10 group presentations. Each person participates twice. The presentations should introduce what the readings are trying to claim and raise questions for class (40-45 minutes total). The presentation, which covers all the readings for the week, is conveyed to the class in a multimedia format, using a presentation program (like PowerPoint).
3. There is a final paper at the end. It is a review paper of 10 pages in length. A review paper is not a research paper but a paper that describes the various debates on a particular topic. The topic is to be chosen from the themes and readings from the course, with at least 10 sources. It is to be uploaded on Laulima.

Focus Designation: Writing Intensive (WI)
This course is a WI course. Writing is practiced to promote 1) critical thinking while learning and 2) interactions between you, me, and fellow classmates through in-class discussions, feedback from me, and feedbacks from me.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students can broadly explain historical change and continuity in the context of North Korea
2. Students can write expository prose and orally present their ideas using historical language and ideas.
3. Students can evaluate primary and secondary sources in relation to North Korea and modern East Asia.
4. Students can identify the main historiographical issues in the field of modern Korean history.

Class codes
Aside from presentation use, all computers are to be put away after 10 minutes the class starts. Critical discussion and collective thinking are essential to our aim. Regarding attendance, each is allowed one free absence. For all other absences, unless an absence is related to an official university event, each absence is counted, whether excused or not.

Evaluation and grading
Total 100 points: attendance 25 points (each absence 3 points); discussion, assignments, presentations 25 points; response papers 25 points (each paper 2 points), and final paper 25 points.


Course materials
All course materials listed below will be available in pdf on Laulima.
**W1. North Korea as state, nation, phenomenon. Introduction of the course.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/21</td>
<td>What is your image of North Korea and socialism?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/23</td>
<td>North Korea in the media</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
  * Bring an example of North Korea in the media, e.g. news, art, blog, and videos. Movie in class. *Crossing the line* dir. Daniel Gordon / Nicholas Bonner; UK 2006.

**W2. What is socialism? What is communism? Before and after Marx.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/28</td>
<td><em>Socialism and utopia</em></td>
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</table>
  Movie in class. *Crossing the line* continued. |
| 8/30 | The pamphlet that launched a thousand ships |

**W3. Before the beginning. From early 20th century to liberation, 1945.**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>Early socialism in Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/6</td>
<td>The rise of Kim Il Sung</td>
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**W4. Socialism as program. From factions to state-formation, 1945-1950.**

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<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Revolution in North Korea</td>
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</table>
  * Bring an example of a socialistic program in the US. |
  Movie in class. *Order #027* directed by Ki Mo Jung and Eung Suk Kim; DPRK 1986. |
| 9/13 | A new world, as seen by an American |

**W5. War and possibilities. The Korean War, 1950-1953.**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>A civil war that became international</td>
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</table>
  Movie in class. *Order #027* continued. |
| 9/20 | The Korean War and America |

**W6. Concentrating power. Reconstruction and growth, the 50s and 60s.**

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<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>Industrialism as progress</td>
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</table>
  Movie in class. *Dear Pyongyang* directed by Yang Yonghi; Japan 2006. |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</table>
Movie in class. *Dear Pyongyang* continued. |
*Assignment. Bring an example of ideology that doesn’t seem like ideology.* |
*Response paper 6 due*  
*Presentation 6* |
Movie in class. *The Game of their lives* continued. |
*Response paper 7 due*  
*Presentation 7* |
*Assignment. Bring an example of current human-created catastrophe.* |
Visual study in class. Artworks of North Korea.  
*Response paper 8 due*  
*Presentation 8* |
### W11. The nuclear program. *Early beginnings*

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| 10/30 Tue | *The origin of the nuclear bomb in Asia*  
| 11/1 Thu | *No class.* |


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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/6 Tue</td>
<td><em>Election Day. No class.</em></td>
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| 11/8 Thu | *US involvement in nuclear North Korea*  
Movie in class. *Comrade Kim Goes Flying* directed by Kim Gwang Hun, Nicholas Bonner, and Anja Daelemans; North Korea, 2012. |

### W13. What is to come? *Daily life and the Kim Dynasty.*

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| 11/13 Tue | *Daily life in North Korea today*  
Movie in class. *Comrade Kim Goes Flying* continued. |
| 11/15 Thu | *Dynastic power and unification*  

### W14. Thanksgiving break.


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| 11/27 Tue | *Their long journey through church and money*  
Movie in class. *Dooman river* directed by Zhang Lu; France, South Korea 2010. |
| 11/29 Thu | *North Korean Culture in South Korea*  

### W16. Is there a future for socialism/communism? *Socialism as a viable program.*

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| 12/4 Tue | *What socialism means now*  
Movie in class. *Dooman river* continued. |
| 12/6 Thu | Last day of class. Reflections on the semester. |

*Response paper 10 due*

*Response paper 11 due*

*Response paper 12 due*

*Presentation 10*

*Response paper 13 due*

*Presentation makeup*

*Response paper 14 due*