SOCILOGY 111/211:
STATE AND SOCIETY IN KOREA

Winter Quarter 2007

Instructor: Professor Gi-Wook Shin/ E301 Encina Hall/ Phone: 723-2408
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Class Meetings: Tue/Thu 2:15 - 03:30 at Sequoia Hall 200

Office Hours: Wed. 3-5 and by appointment (Debbie Warren at dawarren@stanford.edu)

Teaching Assistant:

Course Description:
The basic purpose of this class is to understand society and politics in twentieth century Korea (both North and South) from a historical and comparative perspective. It is not aimed at surveying a general history of Korea, but rather to discuss major sociological and theoretical issues in social change and development (economic and political) using the Korean experience. Topics to be discussed in the course include: modern state-making, colonialism and nationalism, origins of communism (North) and capitalism (South), role of the populace (e.g., peasants and workers) in socioeconomic change, patterns of Korean development, impact of industrialization and urbanization on social life, state-society relations, breakdown of authoritarianism and transition to democracy (South), inter-Korea relations, national unification, and globalization. Although the course focuses on Korea, it will be often contrasted with other East Asian nations and even other countries in the world.

The class will include lectures, films, and class discussions on the course readings. Please make sure to do the assigned readings (amount of readings are somewhat uneven with some weeks with more readings than others) and be prepared for class discussion.

The class fulfills the General Educational Requirements for Area III-B and IV-A.

Grading: Grades will be based on five essays (50%), final exam (40%), and class/discussion attendance and participation (10%). Each essay must include a brief summary of main issues/themes of the readings and your own responses to them. Each essay should be around 400 words in length (give word count in your essay) and must be submitted on the day of class, prior to class discussion, to get credit.

Textbook:

Gi-Wook Shin, Ethnic Nationalism in Korea: Genealogy, Politics, and Legacy (Stanford University Press, 2006)
A reading packet
Course Schedule

January 9: Introduction to the Course

January 11: Korea’s Transition to the Modern World
Shin, Chs. 1 and 6

January 16: Colonialism, Nationalism, and Modernity
Shin, Chs. 2, 3, 7

January 18: Discussion

January 23: Liberation, War, and Division
Shin, Ch. 8.

January 25: State-Society Relations in ROK
Hagen Koo, “Workers and Students,” Ch. 5 in his book Korean Workers.

January 30: State-Society Relations in DPRK
Charles Armstrong, The North Korean Revolution, Ch. 8
Shin, Ch. 4

February 1: Film (A State of Mind) and Discussion
February 6: Economic Development in ROK

Ezra Vogel, Four Little Dragons, Chs. 3 and 5.
Shin, Ch. 5

February 8: Economic Development in DPRK

Bruce Cumings, Korea’s Place, 419-433.

February 13: Democratic Transition and Consolidation in ROK

Sunhyuk Kim, The Politics of Democratization in Korea, 23-76.
Shin, Ch. 9

February 15: Film (The Fight for Democracy) and Discussion

February 20: Historical Injustice


February 22: Globalization

Samuel Kim, Korea’s Globalization, Ch. 1.
Shin, Ch. 11

February 27: Economic Crisis


March 1: Discussion
March 6: US-Korea Relations

Cha and Kang, Nuclear North Korea, Chs. 1-2.

March 8: Korea and NE Asia


March 13: National Unification

Roy Grinker, Korea and Its Futures, 19-48.
Shin, Ch. 10

March 15: Final Exam

Journals and Newspapers on Korea/ East Asia:

Korean Studies.
Journal of Asian Studies.
Asian Survey.
Pacific Affairs.
positions.
FBIS (Foreign Broadcast Information Service)
Far Eastern Economic Review