Anth/SOC 313: Modern Korean Culture and Society
Fall 2015

This course will explore Modern Korean culture and Society in South Korea since 1945. The course will examine key dimensions of Korean society ranging from division, the legacies of the Korean war, national economic development, gender dynamics, social movements, the silent history of U.S. military camptowns and Korean adoption, to the most recent social and cultural phenomena of hallyu and multiculturalism under the aegis of Global Korea. Through a critique of the status quo along class, gender, and racial dynamics of contemporary Korean society, this course aims to develop a more nuanced understanding of modern Korean society and its location in the neoliberal capitalist world by illuminating various aspects of South Korea’s historical, economic, political, and cultural developments in modern times.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of key political and social transformations in Korea since the 1945
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the economic, political and cultural consequences of the Korean War and peninsula’s geopolitical position
3. Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary cultural and social transformations in Korea

Division and State-Led Economic Development

Week 1–3

WEEK 1    Bruce Cumings (2010). Excerpts from The Korean War
*Suzy Kim (2013) Excerpts from Everyday Life in the North
Korean Revolution, 1945 – 1950

WEEK 2    Alice Amsden (1989). Asia’s Next Giant: South Korea and Late
Industrialisation and The Rise of the Rest

WEEK 3    Jesook Song (2009). Preface
South Koreans in the Debt Crisis (2009)

Kwang-yeong Shin (2011) Globalization and Social Inequality in South Korea from New Millennium South Korea: Neoliberal Capitalism and Transnational Movements (Routledge Advances in Korean Studies)

Gender and Development
The City University of New York  
College of Staten Island  
Instructor: Hosu Kim, Ph.D.

Week 4


Week 5

Mobilized to be Martial and Productive: Men’s Subjection to the Nation and the Masculine Subjectivity of Family Provider [44–67] in Moon Seung Sook: Militarized Modernity and Gendered Citizenship in South Korea

Marginalized in Production and Mobilized to Be Domestic: Women’s Incorporation into the Nation [68–94] in Moon Seung Sook: Militarized Modernity and Gendered Citizenship in South Korea

Week 6

Sojin Park. Educational Manager: Mothers as Neoliberal Maternal Subjects (101–114) from New Millennium South Korea: Neoliberal Capitalism and Transnational Movements (Routledge Advances in Korean Studies)

Chapter 2. “Family Breakdown” and Invisible Homeless Women (49–71)  
Song, Jesook, South Koreans in the Debt Crisis (2009)

Democratization Movements, Grassroots Organizing and Civil Society

Week 7  
Kwangju Massacre (documentary)


Week 8  

- Introduction: Minjung, History and Historical Subjectivity (1–20)
The City University of New York
College of Staten Island
Instructor: Hosu Kim, Ph.D.

- The Construction of Minjung (21–69)
- Anti-Communism and North Korea (70–108)

The silenced people and stories of South Korean Development

Week 9
Grace Cho  Haunting the Korean Diaspora: Shame, Secrecy and the Forgotten War (University of Minnesota Press, 2018)
  Introduction. (p. 1 – p. 25)
  Chapter 1. Fleshing out the Ghost (p. 27 – 49)

Week 10
Eleana Kim  Understanding Transnational Korean Adoption from Adopted Territory: Transnational Adoptee and The Politics of Belonging

Deann Borshay Liem  In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee (2010) Mu Film

Week 11
Hosu Kim  Television Mothers: Lost and Found in Search and Reunion Narrative.
  Cultural Studies ⇔ Critical Methodologies Vol 12, Issue 5.

Tammy Chu  Resilience (2009) (Documentary Film)

Multiculturalism and Global Korea

Week 12

Week 13

Week 14

Week 15
Kim Kyung Hyun  Introduction. Hallyu’s Virtuality [p. 1 – 21] + [23 – 54]
Kim Jung Bong  *Transnational Cinemas, Unsettling the National in Korean Cinema* for the *Journal of Korean Studies* (2011)