Instructor: Prof. Chung-In Moon
Office: TBA  (E-mail: cimoon@yonsei.ac.kr/ cimoon3@gmail.com)
Web site: http://www.cimoon.net
Class Hours: TUTH 2:00-3:20pm in CSB 0005.
Office Hours: Thursday, 4:00-5:30 PM and by appointment

Course Description: The course is designed to explore the evolving dynamics of contemporary South Korean politics. Initial attention will be paid to critical historical junctures of South Korea including democratic opening and transition in 1987, which will be followed by the examination of institutional foundation, political leadership, and political actors and processes. Such salient topical issues as the politics of economic transformation, succession politics in North Korea, and Korean unification and inter-Korean relations will also be covered. In conclusion, the course aims at drawing theoretical and empirical implications of Korean politics in comparative perspectives.

Evaluation: In-class performance: presentation and class participation (30%), mid-term examination (40%), individual or group term paper (30%) due on March 17. No final examination.

Core Readings:


To follow the up-to-date information on Korea, the following newspapers and magazines will be useful. Korea Herald (a daily newspaper in English): http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/

English version of Korean daily newspapers: progressive Hankyoreh (http://english.hani.co.kr); conservative Chosun (http://english.chosun.com/) and JoongAng (http://joongangdaily.joins.com). Korea Focus (a monthly webzine and a quarterly journal published by the Korea Foundation): Available at http://www.koreafocus.or.kr/ Los Angeles editions of 한국 일보 (http://www.koreatimes.com/local.asp) and 중앙일보 (http://www.koreadaily.com) are available in the SGPS Study Area.
Useful websites for library research:

Korean Online Full-Text database “KSI KISS” (http://kiss.kstudy.com/), which contains more than 1 million full text articles (most articles are in Korean, but some are in English and many have English abstracts) from 1200 academic journals in Korea, is available for UCSD faculty and students at Roger. E-Korean Studies (http://www.e-koreanstudies.com), DBpia (http://www.dbpia.co.kr/), and Nurimedia (http://nanc.nurimedia.co.kr) are also available at Roger.

Many government documents and master's and doctor's dissertations approved by Korean universities are available at the "Digital Library" of The National Assembly Library (http://www.nanet.go.kr/). Copyrighted materials are available by clicking on the “NADL 2004” icon on the designated computers in the IR/PS computer lab and Geisel Library. Also, the following sites may be useful. www.riss4u.net (Korea Education and Research Information Service, 교육학술정보원) and Korean Social Survey Data Archive (http://www.kossda.or.kr/eng/). On this website, users may search the data and literature archive, download data files, and perform online statistical analysis.

Course Outline

**Week 1 (Jan. 10):** Introduction and course overview/ open discussion over contemporary Korean politics/ assignment of in-class presentation

No reading assignment

**Week 2 (Jan. 12, 17):** Korean Politics: Historical setting- colonial rule, liberation, national division, the Korean War, the First Republic, and historical overview of contemporary Korean politics


**Presentation topic: Debates on the origin of the Korea War (orthodox, revisionist, and re-revisionist perspectives)**


**Week 3 (Jan. 19, 24):** Critical juncture in South Korea's political history: From authoritarianism to democracy/ democratic opening, transition, and consolidation/ dynamics of structure, culture and leadership choice: Confucianism, materialism, and post-materialism/ challenges to Korean democracy


Presentation topic: "Determinants of democratic transition in 1987: structure, culture, or leadership choice?"


Presentation topic: What went wrong with presidential system?: The case of Park Geun-hye presidency"

Week 5 (Feb. 2, 7): Political leadership in South Korea: a survey of political leadership/ an in- depth examination of Park Chung-hee/ Park's modernization strategy- success and failures/ myth and reality of political leadership in South Korea


Presentation topic: “Debates on legacies of Park Chung-hee leadership: industrialization vs. democracy”

Week 6 (Feb. 9, 14): Political actors and political process: elections and voting behavior/political parties/media, the military, students, labor, and NGOs/changing landscape of political process


Presentation topic: "Is military re-intervention in civil politics possible?

Week 7 (Feb. 16, 21): Political economy of development in South Korea: debates on colonial modernity/transition to export-led growth and industrialization/developmental state and state-business relations/ economic crises in 1997 and 2009/ inequality and social policy/new challenges to the South Korean economy


**Presentation topics: "The Korean Chaebol- Blessing or Curse?”**

**February 23 (Thu), mid-term examination**

**Week 8 (Feb. 28, March 2):** Understanding North Korean politics and economy: the paradox of succession politics/ Juche economy/ Kim Jung Un, ruling or reigning? / contingency and the coming collapse of North Korea?- false expectations and reality/ North Korea's foreign policy-rational or irrational?/ human rights in North Korea


**Presentation topics: "Debates on North Korean collapse-Is it imminent?”**

**Week 9 (March 7, 9):** Debates on Korean unification: models and pathways to Korean unification/ unification as bonanza and costs of unification/ barriers to Korean unification/ The sunshine policy and its limits/dealing with the North Korean nuclear quagmire


**Presentation topics: "How to resolve the North Korean nuclear problem?”"
**Week 10 (March 14, 16):** Conclusion: Wrap-up/recasting and forecasting Korean politics/theoretical and empirical implications of South Korean politics in comparative perspectives.

No reading assignment