## **YORK UNIVERSITY** FACULTY OF LIBERAL ARTS AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES Department of Politics

<u>Course:</u> <u>Term:</u> <u>Time and location:</u>	GLBL 3581 6.0 South Korea: The Politics of Youth and Old Age (Study Abroad) Summer 2024 May 6-10, 2024, each day from 11:30am-2:20pm, Keele Campus - Ross S501 May 13-May 31, 2024, in Seoul, South Korea
eClass:	
Instructor:	Thomas R. Klassen
	https://www.yorku.ca/laps/summer-abroad/glbl-3581/
	https://www.thomasklassen.net/
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Office:	137 McLaughlin College
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<u>Phone:</u>	416-736-2100 x. 88828
Office hours:	The instructor is available before and after each class to meet with students individually. Meetings at other times can also be arranged.

Not open to students who have completed less than 60 credits.

This course is cross listed with AP/POLS 3580.

#### **Course Description**

The course focuses on the politics of youth and old age in contemporary South Korea. This is a study abroad course with one week of classes at the Keele Campus, followed by three weeks in Seoul, South Korea. The course studies the political debates and cultural shifts - including intergenerational conflicts - that arise from a rapidly ageing population.

In the first week of the course students learn about the politics of modern Korea. The literature on compressed modernity and the developmental welfare state, as related to South Korea will anchor this part of the course. This part of the course concludes with a review of how demographic trends (Korea is the world's most rapidly aging nation) and hose these have shaped politics, and the welfare state.

For the second to fourth weeks the students travel to Seoul, the capital of South Korea with half the nation's population. There they will each day visit a different site (including the ones listed below):

1) National Museum of Korean Contemporary History, 2) Seoul Museum of History, 3) National Museum of Korea, 4) Seodaemun Prison Museum, 5) War Memorial Museum of Korea, 6) National Assembly. Most site visits will be preceded or followed by a short lecture to relate the visit to the course material.

The students will spend time at Yonsei University and Chung-Ang University in Seoul to attend lectures on Korean history and social policy. There will also be a guided tour to the DMZ (the border between North and South Korea) that is located 75 kilometers north of Seoul. A variety of other experiential learning opportunities will be arranged for students in Seoul, including a briefing at the Canadian Embassy in Seoul.

As with other summer study abroad courses, students will participate in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Action initiative.

#### **Course Learning Outcomes**

1. Summarize Korean politics on a theoretical and practical level, while investigating political and policy problems (such as population ageing) and issues (such as compressed modernity).

2. Communicate ideas, problems, solutions, and perspectives related to politics and social policy with accuracy and effectiveness both in oral and written communications. In particular, doing so to an audience that has a different culture and background (and native language) from the students.

3. Interpret and distinguish the lives of young people in Korea in relation to the key topics of this course (including demography, education, compulsory military service and related) from being immersed in life in Seoul.

4. Use cross-cultural analysis to examine culture and self and how personal and national values develop.

5. Expand the knowledge of students of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 in relation to Korea, provide explore of the goals while in Korea.

6. Write a reflective final assignment that draws on their journal entries and incorporates insights gained from interaction with Korean students, experts, and others.

7. Reflect on their sense of self and their understanding of others.

#### Evaluation

Test – 20% (May 10) Research paper proposal – 5% (May 24) Participation (class discussion, being prepared and on time, supporting colleagues) – 15% Final research paper – 35% (June 21) Video for UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Action initiative – 15% (June 28) Reflection – 10% (July 5)

#### Test

The test will cover material from the first week of the course and the required major text.

#### **Research Paper Proposal**

The proposal may be conceived as a map that provides direction for the research and writing of the research essay. The more detailed and developed the map, the less difficult it should be to write the final research essay.

You may select any topic of interest related to the politics of youth and ageing in Korea, although logically it must be closely linked to the topics covered in the course and to your previous policy diaries, chapter reviews, and required readings for this course. Indeed, the readings for our course will provide you with suggestions or ideas, as well as sources. Aim to have a focussed topic (problem, issue, controversy, debate or dilemma). In your proposal you should also indicate why what you have selected to explore is interesting and important.

The proposal will require library and web-based research and you must include a short bibliography that includes the works consulted so far.

There is no specific format that will be most appropriate for the proposal. The length of the proposal should be three pages, in addition to the bibliography. Please send a draft of the proposal to the instructor for feedback.

#### Video for United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Action initiative

This **assignment is a 3-5-minute video** explaining how the topic of your final research essay connects with one or more of the 17 <u>United Nations Sustainability Development Goals</u> (SDGs).

The video needs to respond to the following three questions, based on your research:

- 1. what SDG or SDGs is your research essay connected to?
- 2. why is this SDG important to address in Korea?
- 3. what are the potential (practical) solutions to address this SDG in Korea?

You are not expected to conduct additional research for the video, other than becoming familiar with the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs).

The video must include photos and clips that you took in Seoul. Aim for a video that is informative, creative, engaging and entertaining. Please include your name in the video.

You may work in groups of two or three for the video. If doing so, please send me the agreement that all group members have made to share work equally. A group of two members will submit a video of 4-6 minutes, while a group of three members will submit a video of 5-7 minutes.

You can review videos that have been prepared in the past by students for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Action at: <u>https://yorkinternational.yorku.ca/sdg-action-projects/</u>.

#### **Research essay**

The research essay must be professional in all aspects. As such, it must have a cover page, title, table of contents, five or six sections (such as an introduction, etc.), bibliography and, if you wish, appendices. You are encouraged to use a few visual aids – graphs, charts, photos, diagrams, and tables – that must be clearly labelled and referenced. The essay should be a holistic work that demonstrates considerable research and reflection, as well as strong writing skills.

Be sure to utilize the database that you will develop while in Korea in writing the essay. This includes: photos, brochures, observations you made, discussions you had with people in Korea, notes from lectures and meetings, and more.

The essay must be at least 12 pages in length using double-spacing and 12-point font. Grades will be deducted for grammatical errors. You must have the paper read (edited) by others before submitting it. At least 50% of your citations must be from academic sources (books and articles).

More details about the expectations for this paper will be provided during the course.

#### **Reflective paper**

The writing of the reflective paper should begin when you arrive in Korea (or before) and be the last writing for the course. The objective of the paper is to analyze your progress in understanding Korean politics and culture, and the role that field research played in furthering your knowledge of Korea.

The paper should answer these three questions: 1) what you learned about the politics of youth and old age while in Korea; 2) what you learned about Korea or Koreans while in Korea; 3) what you learned about yourself while in Korea.

You can write in the first person ("I ...") and you can be as creative as you like. For example, use a diary format, include photos, etc. The only requirement is sparkling, concise and clear language without grammatical errors. The paper must be at least 6 pages in length using double-spacing and 12-point font.

#### Grading, Assignment Submission, and Lateness Penalties

**Grading**: Percentage grades will be provided for each assignment. The final letter grade will be determined as illustrated:

Grade Per Cent Range

Description

80-89
75-79
70-74
65-69
60-64
55-59
50-54
(marginally below 50%)
(below 50%)

#### Excellent Very Good Good Competent **Fairly Competent** Passing **Marginally Passing** Marginally Failing Failing

#### **Required Readings**

А

B+

В C+

C D+

D

Е

F

Pardo, Ramon Pacheco. 2022. Shrimp to whale: South Korea from the forgotten war to K-Pop. London: Hurst Publishers. [available online from the York Library]. The Scott Library has one hard copy of the book which is on 24 hour loan starting May 1, 2024.

Klassen, Thomas R. and John A. Dwyer. 2015. How to succeed at university (and get a great job!): Mastering the critical skills you need for school, work and life. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. available as a free download.

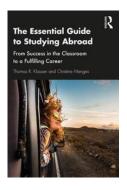
#### **Recommended reading**

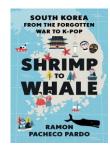
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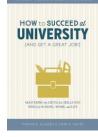
Tudor, Daniel. 2018 (revised edition). Korea: The impossible country. North Clarendon, Vt.: Tuttle Publishers. DS 916.27 T84 2012 and here.

Klassen, Thomas R. and Christine Menges. 2020. The essential guide to studying abroad: From success in the classroom to a fulfilling career. Abington, Oxon: Routledge. Available at the Scott Reference desk and online from the York Library.











#### Key reference texts at the York Libraries

Chang, Kyung-Sup. 2010. *South Korea under compressed modernity: Familial political economy in transition*. London: Routledge. [Scott Library]

Choi, Jang-jip. 2012. *Democracy after democratization: The Korean experience*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University/Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center. [Scott Library]

Elwood, Paul H. and Jeremy B. Albertus, eds. 2008. *Korea: Economic, political and social issues*. New York: Nova Science Publishers. [Scott Library]

Higo, Masa and Thomas R. Klassen, eds. 2015. *Retirement in Japan and South Korea The past, the present and the future of mandatory retirement*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. Scott Library]

Kang, Woosung, and Edward Leary. *Korean culture dictionary: From kimchi to K-Pop and K-Drama clichés: Everything about Korea explained!* Denver, Colorado: New Ampersand Publishing, 2021. [Scott Library]

Kim, Gooyong. 2019. From factory girls to K-Pop idol girls: Cultural politics of developmentalism, patriarchy, and neoliberalism in South Korea's popular music industry. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books. [Scott Library]

Kim, Chae-Han. 2021. *The New Dynamics of Democracy in South Korea*. United Kingdom: Routledge. [Scott Library]

Kim, Rosalie, and Youna Kim. 2022. *Hallyu!: The Korean Wave*. London: V & A Publishing. [Scott Library]

Klassen, Thomas R. and Yunjeong Yang, eds. 2014. *Korea's retirement predicament: The ageing tiger*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. [Scott Library]

Milani, Marco, Antonio Firori, and Matteo Dian. 2019. *The Korean paradox: Domestic political divide and foreign policy in South Korea*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. [Scott Library]

Mobrand, Erik Johan. 2019. *Top-down Democracy in South Korea*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. [Scott Library]

Schwekendiek, Daniel J. 2017. South Korea: A socioeconomic overview from the past to present. London: Routledge. [Scott Library]

Woo, Jaejoon. 2022. *Confronting South Korea's next crisis: Rigidities, polarization, and fear of Japanification*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022. [Scott Library]

Yang, Chae-jin. 2017. *The political economy of the small welfare state in South Korea.* New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. [Scott Library]



#### **Daily newspapers**

The Korea Herald: <u>http://www.koreaherald.com/</u> The Dong-A Ilbo: <u>http://english.donga.com/</u> The Korea Times: <u>http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/index.asp</u> Korea JongAng Daily: <u>http://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/</u> The Hankyoreh: <u>http://english.hani.co.kr/arti/english\_edition/</u>

As well, Korea Exposé: http://www.koreaexpose.com/

Finally, <u>Arirang Broadcasting</u> (international, English-broadcasting television network based in Seoul)

#### Selected recent mass media readings

Korea's gender wage gap worst among 33 OECD countries

BTS, Blackpink, Squid Game, kimchi ... what's the secret of South Korea's world-conquering culture?

Anatomy of a falling birth rate, from 4.53 to 0.72 in Korea

Marriages in Korea fall by 40% within a decade

South Korea's fertility rate drops to new low

No. of schoolchildren to drop below 5m by 2026

To be added

Contemporary Korean literature: https://booksandbao.com/korean-novels-in-translation/

#### **Relevant York University policies**

#### Academic Honesty

The breach of the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty is a serious matter. To quote the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty:

"The Policy on Academic Honesty is a reaffirmation and clarification for members of the University of the general obligation to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. It outlines the general responsibility of faculty to foster acceptable standards of academic conduct and of the student to be mindful of and abide by such standards."

Please see: <a href="https://www.yorku.ca/unit/vpacad/academic-integrity/">https://www.yorku.ca/unit/vpacad/academic-integrity/</a>

Students might wish to review the interactive on-line tutorial on academic integrity at: <u>https://spark.library.yorku.ca/academic-integrity-what-is-academic-integrity/</u>

#### Students with Special Needs

York University is committed to making reasonable accommodations and adaptations to make equitable the educational experience of students with special needs and to promote their full integration into the campus community. Please alert the Course Director during the first class should you require special accommodations.

## SCHEDULE

### May 6-10 schedule (Keele Campus, York University)

Monday, May 6 – lecture – required readings: chapters 1-2 of *Shrimp to whale: South Korea from the forgotten war to K-Pop* 

Please watch: The Dark Side of South Korea's Incredible Economic Success

Lecture: Introduction to contemporary South Korean politics

Tuesday, May 7 – lecture and guests (see below) – required readings: chapters 3-4

Lecture: Korea: Identity, history and politics

12:00 – student/s from last year course will come to speak for a few minutes and answer q questions

Wednesday, May 8 - lecture and librarian (see below) - required readings: chapters 5-6

11:30-12:30 – Librarian from <u>York Library</u> will provide a one-hour workshop on research skills especially while abroad

Lecture: Age and the life course

Thursday, May 9 – lecture – required readings: Epilogue and end matter

Lecture: Social movements in contemporary South Korea

Guest Lecture: Perspectives on North Korea – Sean Chung – HanVoice [to be confirmed]

Friday, May 10 – lecture and test

Lecture: Conducting field research

Overview of field visits in Korea

**NOTE**: For suggestions on how to explore Seoul outside of course activities, please see: <u>https://english.visitseoul.net/index</u>

## May 13 - May 31 schedule (Seoul, South Korea)

**Monday, May 13** - Visit to central Seoul (Seoul City Hall, Gwanghwamun Square, Kyobo Bookstore, Insa-dong; and Jogyesa Temple) and then the <u>National Museum of Korean Contemporary History</u>

Why are we going there? To learn more about the history of modern South Korea (from 1894 to the present.

What to look for? How is Korea/South Korea's history portrayed. What choices have been made? What seems to be emphasized? What seems to be missing?

#### Tuesday, May 14

11:00-12:00 - Tour of <u>Yonsei University Sinchon (main) Campus</u> will meet in front of the Student Union building (see map on last page of syllabus).

3:00pm: hanbok rental – Gyeongbokgung Palace [courtesy of the Korea Tourism Organization]

Wednesday, May 15 - BUDDHA'S BIRTHDAY – National holiday

To be determined, but will include visit to Jogyesa Temple

**Thursday, May 16** – 12:00-1:15 – meet students and attend guest lecture at <u>Chung-Ang University</u> - followed by campus tour. We will be joining a course on Korean social policy in the <u>School of Social</u> <u>Welfare</u> taught be <u>Professor Sophia Seung-yoon Lee</u>.

Klassen Guest lecture: "Introduction to Canada and Canadian social policy"

From 4:30 to 5:45pm we will be joining a course at Chung-Ang University titled *Welfare for the Aged* taught by <u>Professor Yeonjung Lee</u> in the <u>School of Social Welfare.</u>

Guest lecture: "Intergenerational equity and fairness in ageing Asia"

5:45 – 6:30 – private meeting for students with Professor Yeonjung Lee to discuss research interests

**Friday, May 17** – A guided walking tour of Seochon. See: <u>https://english.visitseoul.net/walking-tour/Seochon-Hanok-Village/ENN000624</u>

**Monday, May 20** – 11:00 - Visit to the <u>National Museum of Korea</u> followed by a visit to Gyeongbokgung Palace

Why are we going there? To learn more about the history of Korean civilization and what makes it distinct.

What to look for? The scope of the exhibits and how they are similar and/or different from exhibits you might see in other national museums in other nations.

**Tuesday, May 21** – 12:00-1:15 – attend student social policy seminar at Chung-Ang University with students from Professor Sophia Lee's social policy class – Professor Lee will give a lecture, followed by small group discussion.

From 4:30 to 5:45pm – attend student seminar/discussion in a course the titled "Welfare for the Aged" taught by Professor Yeonjung Lee

**Wednesday, May 22** – 10:00am – briefing at the <u>Embassy of Canada to the Republic of Korea</u>, in Seoul – followed by group lunch

**Thursday, May 23** – 9:30am – Tour of <u>Ewha Woman's University Museum</u> – 10:00-10:30 guided tour of the Ewha University Archives

11:30am - <u>Seoul Museum of History</u> – followed by individual time to explore/learn in downtown Seoul

Why are we going there? To learn more about the history of the city of Seoul, from its early beginnings to the present day.

What to look for? The rapid urbanization since 1960.



Friday, May 24 – TBD

#### Monday, May 27 – 11:30 – Visit to the War Memorial Korea.

Why are we going there? To learn about the history of the Korean peninsula, with a focus on the many wars that have taken place.

What to look for and think about? How modern Korea has been shaped by past military conflicts. Understanding role of the military in the lives of Koreans, especially males.

Following the War Memorial we explore Itaewon, Seoul's most cosmopolitan neighbourhood.

**Tuesday, May 28** - Gyeongui Line Forest Park Trail to Hongdae walking tour starting at the Digital Media City Metro Station

- Explore streams running to the Han River
- Observe a typical neighbourhood in Seoul and its inhabitants
- Moranae Market (a glimpse in the Seoul of yesteryear)
- Walk to Hongdae and explore the neighbourhood
- Optional walk back to the Ever8

Why are we going there? To see neighbourhoods away from the core of the city. To learn about the daily lives of Koreans.

What to look for? Changes/gentrification of the neighbourhoods we are exploring. Types of people and activities. Differences between Seoul and Toronto.

**Wednesday, May 29** – guided visit to the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) including, if conditions permit, to the Joint Security Area and Panmunjom.

Thursday, May 30 – Visit to the Seodaemun Prison History Hall, and then Yeongcheon Market.

**Friday, May 31** – 5:00pm *Painters* show [courtesy of the Korea Tourism Organization] - farewell dinner



#### CHUNG-ANG UNIVERSITY MAP



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101 (Young-shin Hall) -

Constructed in 1938, Building 101 (or Yeongsin Hall) is the first stone building named after founder Seungdang Lim Yeong-sin. Yeongsin Hall has the longest history among the buildings in CAU, and its antique look is a work of art that gives an impression of elegance. The building was used as the university HQ until August 1968.



#### YONSEI UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MAP

