Social Changes in Korea: Minorities and Human Rights
Spring 2015

Instructor
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Hours and Location
2:00pm-4:45pm on Friday at International Studies Hall 218

Description
The purpose of this course is to examine various human rights issues in Korea focusing on minorities. We first briefly review general theories and concepts of human rights and then move on to empirical studies of human rights of women, sexual minorities, North Korean defectors, migrants, conscientious objectors, single parent, and so on. Scholars have always paid attention to how South Korea, a once war-ravaged, impoverished country could accomplish such a remarkable economic growth in a short period of time but have not much delved into those who least benefited from it. This course aims to help understand Korean society by exploring the other side of economic success, that is, the current situations of minorities and least advantaged groups in South Korea.

Requirements
Readings:
Each student is required to complete all readings and to come to class prepared to discuss them. Reading materials will be given electronically.

Presentations:
Each student is required to give a presentation of the readings at least once during the quarter. These presentations should provide a brief summary of the readings and provide several good discussion questions to initiate in-class discussions.

Three memos:
Students submit three (3) memos during any three weeks of the quarter. Students will want to write memos for those weeks that relate to their own research interests. The memos must discuss 1) the assigned readings’ main research problem/argument 2) offer the students’ own assessment of the readings (both strengths and weaknesses) and 3) provide discussion questions. The memos should be 2-3 pages in length with 12-point font, Times New Roman, 1” margins, double-spaced, using MS Word. The deadline is by 9pm Thursday.

Mid-term Presentation:
Students is required to give a presentation of the topics and research plans for the final paper. This presentation should provide a brief summary of the research topic, research questions, backgrounds, data, and method.

Final paper:
Students write a final paper of no more than 3000 words related to the themes covered in the course. I encourage students to develop current or future research as in a research
proposal, a thesis chapter, or a stand-alone research paper. Papers should be written with MS Word, 12-point font, double-spaced, Times New Roman, and 1” margins.

**Evaluation:**
Class participation (including presentation): 30%
Three memos: 30%
Mid-term Presentation & Final paper: 40%

**Weekly Schedule of Readings and Topics:**

**Week 1 Introduction and Overview (3/4)**
No readings

**Week 2 Human Rights in General (3/11)**

**Week 3 Human Rights and Asian Values (3/18)**

**Week 4 Human Rights in Korea (3/25)**

**Week 5 Women’s Rights (4/1)**

**Week 6 Sexual Minorities and Human Rights (4/8)**

Week 7 No Class (4/15)
Conference at Harvard University

Week 8 Mid-term Presentation (4/22)

Week 9 North Korea (4/29)
Further materials are TBA

Week 10 North Korean Refugees (5/6)

Week 11 Migrants (5/13)

Week 12 Conscientious Objectors (5/20)

Week 13 Other Minorities and Topics I (5/27)

**Week 14 Other Minorities and Topics II (6/3)**

**Week 15 (6/10) Wrap-up**
No Class

**Week 16 (6/17) Final Week**
Final paper is due on 6/16 (Thursday) 11:59PM.