



A rarely offered course, with limited seating!

There are no prerequisites for this course, which carries 3 CASE S&H credits

Spring Semester, 2012

Y362: Korean Politics

Section 32458

TR 4:00 – 5:15p

WH 218

Since the end of Japanese colonialism, the Korean Peninsula has been divided into separate political entities, which are involved in fierce competition and hostilities. In the northern half, the Kim family has built a state that is highly authoritarian, isolated, militant, and nationalistic. The nature of its internal governance is somewhat secretive and its external behavior is quite enigmatic to many outside observers. In contrast, Seoul has been able to achieve remarkable economic success while it gradually transformed itself from an authoritarian to a democratic regime.

This class provides students with adequate tools for understanding the two Korea's systems of governance and their political and economic behavior. Special emphasis will be given to the nature of the North Korea's political system and its attempts to become a nuclear power. Why is Pyongyang trying hard to become a nuclear weapons power? Will it ever give it up? How stable is the North Korean regime? Will it collapse? In addition, the class will devote some attention to the relationship between North Korea and South Korea.



This course will be taught by Woo Seongji, who is Associate Professor at the College of International Studies, Kyung Hee University. Before joining Kyung Hee, he worked as an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS), a think tank for South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Dr. Woo received his Ph.D. from Indiana University, Bloomington. His English articles include "Pyongyang and the World: North Korean Perspectives on International Relations under Kim Jong-il" (August 2011, *Pacific Focus*), "The Park Chung-hee Administration amid Inter-Korean Reconciliation in the Détente Period" (Summer 2009, *Korea Journal*), "Triangle Research and Understanding Northeast Asian Politics" (Summer 2003, *Asian Perspective*), "South Korea's Search for a Unification Strategy" (Summer 2003, *Orbis*), and "Adversarial Engagement and Alliance Relations: Triangular Politics on the Korean Peninsula, 1988-94" (March 2001, *Issues & Studies*).