KOR2510 - North Korea: Ideology, Society and Politics Fall semester 2025

This exam consists of three parts. You must respond to all three parts.

Each part counts for one third of the final grade.

The examination text is given in English. You may submit your response in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English.

What you write will be stored automatically every 15 seconds. You may, at any time, switch back and forth between exam modules in order to check what you have done in each; however, the modules are numbered and you must do each module as a separate unit. After starting the exam, you will see your remaining time in the upper left corner.

No examination support materials are permitted.

Break a leg!

Question 1

A number of researchers refer to North Korea as a "garrison state." Can you explain this term? What is the historical background of North Korea's emergence as a garrison state? What are the implications of garrison state conditions for North Korean society, economy and culture?

Question 2

After the period of reforms known as *perestroika* (1985-91), Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. What were the implications of Soviet collapse for North Korea? How did these implications contribute to shaping the trajectory of North Korean history in the 1990s and in the later decades?

Question 3

Kim Jong Un (金正恩) has been North Korea's supreme leader since 2011. In which way does North Korea under Kim Jong Un's rule differ from North Korea in the age of Kim Il Sung or North Korea of the 2000s? And what are the continuities between Kim Jong Un's policies and the governance strategies of his predecessors?