Grading guidelines KOR2510 fall 2025

Exam

The final exam is a 4 hours-long digital school exam, conducted in Inspera. The exam consists of three essay questions. Each question requires a detailed narrative description as answer. All questions must be answered, and the answers to all the three questions count equally, when the results are calculated.

Materials

The questions are based on the following two academic books included into the obligatory reading list:

Andrei Lankov. *The Real North Korea: Life and Politics in the Failed Stalinist Utopia*. OUP, 2013 (the fragments from the book scanned and uploaded onto Canvas).

and

Bruce Cumings: *North Korea – Another Country*, NY, New Press, 2004, pp. 1-43, 103-77 (these fragments from the book have been scanned and uploaded onto Canvas).

At the same time the use of the content of the other book on the obligatory reading list (Daniel Tudor, James Pearson. *North Korea Confidential: Private Markets, Fashion Trends, Prison Camps, Dissenters and Defectors*. Tuttle Publishing, 2015), as well as supplementary reading materials and class Power Points is allowed and encouraged too. However, as a matter of principle, good familiarity with the content of the two above-mentioned books on the obligatory reading list should be sufficient for answering the questions.

Compulsory Activities

Students must pass all compulsory activities to qualify for the exam.

Grading Criteria

The exam results are evaluated and graded based on the following criteria (this is not a graded list; all issues will be considered on a holistic basis):

- Does the essay attempt to answer the question(s) asked in a sufficient and factually correct way?
- How detailed the essay is? How concrete are the descriptions and explanations?
- Are there many factual errors in the essay? Are dates and names correct, at least approximately?
- To which extent does the essay demonstrate theoretical and methodological awareness?
- To which extent does the essay attempt independent analysis? Is it more analytic or descriptive?
- Is there a clear structure in the essay that makes it easy to follow the argumentation.
- Does the essay include any irrelevant and unnecessary information (if so, it implies a lower grade)?
- Is the language of the essay comprehensible (it does not need to be in perfect English or a Scandinavian language, but grades will be negatively influenced by incomprehensible or seriously ungrammatical parts of text)?