KOR2510 - North Korea: Ideology, Society and Politics

Fall semester 2022

Exam date: November 24th, 15:00-19:00
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.

No aids permitted.

Break a leg!

Question 1
Describe the relationship between Soviet Union (USSR) and North Korea since the establishment of North Korean state in 1948 and until the dissolution of Soviet Union in 1991. What were the similarities and differences between Soviet and North Korean trajectories of socio-political, economical and cultural development?

Question 2
Describe what you know about the economic history of North Korea since its establishment in 1948 and until the end of the 1980s. Explain the reasons for the relative slowing of North Korean economic growth rates in the 1970s and 1980s and for North Korea's inability to successfully integrate itself into the global economy in that period.

Question 3
Explain how North Korea's Chuch'e (Juche) ideas differ from other anti-capitalist or anti-imperialist ideological constructs of the twentieth century, including the official "Marxism-Leninism" of Soviet Union. Describe the meanings of such concepts as "the leader", "people's masses," "nation" and "independence" in the framework of Chuch'e (Juche) ideology.