

Kim, Chul-Kyoo Dept. of Sociology Korea University



#### **Required Texts**

- Kim, Kyong-dong (ed.). 2008. *Social Change in Korea*. Seoul: Jimoondang.
- The Korea Herald(ed). 2007. Insight into Korea. Seoul: Herald Media.

### **Course Requirements (KU students)**

- 1. Attendance and Participation (10%)
- 2. Mid-term Exam (30%)
- 3. Final Examination (30%)
- 4. Team Research Project (30%)

# Important Notice

- Korea Foundation Global E-school program
- Dual Structure of audience & lecture time
- Korea University students & Fudan University students
- Not recommended to upper-year sociology major students at KU

### WEEKLY SCHEDULES

- Week 1. Course Introduction
- Week 2. Social Change in Korea: An overview
- Week 3. Who are Koreans: History and Culture
- Week 4. Political economy of development (1)
- Week 5. Political economy of development (2)
- Week 6. Population changes
- Week 7. Education
- Week 8. Mid-term Exam

- Week 9. Environmental issues
- Week 10. Marriage, Family and Women (1)
- Week 11. Marriage, Family and Women (2)
- Week 12. Agriculture and Food
- Week 13. Religion
- Week 14-15: Presentation of Research Results
- Week 16. Final Exam



### 1. What is this course about?



**Current state of Korean society** 



Social Changes of the past several decades



**Key Features of Korean Culture** 



**Mechanisms of Social Change** 

# 2. How are we going to study Korean Society?

### 1) Historically

- Things change over time.
- What happened in the past constructs the present.
- What happens now will affect the future.

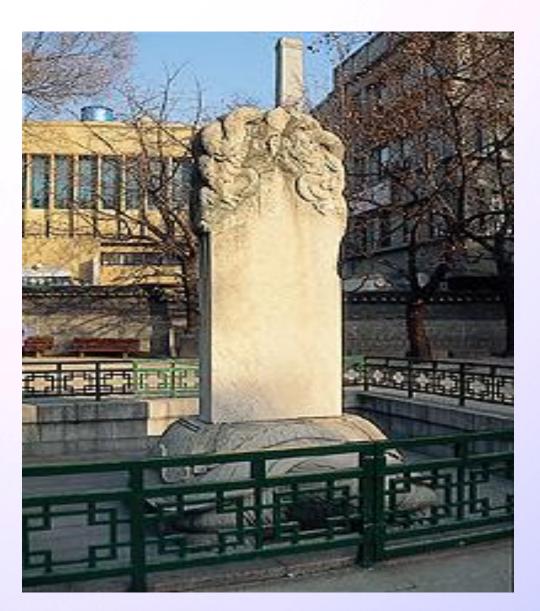
### Wongak-sa 10 story pagoda (1467) National Treasure #2



Source: http://ko.wikipedia.org

### 대원각사비(Daewongak-sa Monument), 1471

source: <a href="http://enc.daum.net/dic100">http://enc.daum.net/dic100</a>



# Demanding independence on March 1, 1919





Source: http://cafe.daum.net/khtrip/

### Tapgol Park for the politics of the elderly





대한민국어버미연합회 소속 회원 등이 26일 서울 훈정통 종묘공원에 모여 북한을 비난하는 문구가 적힌 팻말을 불태우고 있다.

### Being old and poor





Source: http://job.incruit.com

### 2) Sociologically

- Social phenomenon is a result of 'interactions' among different 'actors' and 'social factors'.
- Going beyond the surface and understand the 'mechanism' → Explanation (eg.) high sex ratio.

### **Sex Ratio of Korea**

	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
Average	109.5	116.5	113.2	110.2	107.8	106.9
First Child	106.0	108.5	105.8	106.2	104.8	106.4
Second Child	107.8	117.0	111.7	107.4	106.5	105.8
Third+ Child	134.2	192.7	180.2	143.9	128.5	110.9

Source: Statistics Korea

### Sociological methods

### 1. Survey Research

- a research method in which subjects respond to a series of items or questions in a questionnaire or an interview.
- political attitudes, religious beliefs, etc.
- Relationship between variables.

Qualitative Research Method
(Participant Observation/In-depth Interview)

- For exploratory and descriptive study of people in a 'natural' setting.
- Generates qualitative data for interpretation.
- Helps us to understand their/insiders' own view.

Research Projects: Previous Examples

- -Education: survey of high school students
- -Café culture: survey of college students
- -Gay community in Korea: mixed methods

## What is "society?"

### The components of a society

- 1) people: #, age, gender, race, etc.
- 2) organization/institution: family, school, religion, business
- 3) symbolic structure: culture, value, norms