IDENTITY POLITICS IN THE POST-SOVIET SPACE: 
THE KOREAN DIASPORA IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE

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Course dates: 11th, 13th, 15th and 18th of May 2015

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Course description

The course uses the case study of the Korean diaspora in the post-Soviet space as a prism to understand the process of identity formation and transformation in the region. The course first introduces and discusses some key concepts to understand this process. Next, it provides some context to contemporary nation-building by focusing on Soviet nationality policies. The following section looks at state- and nation-building in the post-Soviet era, with a particular focus on diasporic communities. The second part of the course deals specifically with the role of middle powers in the region and analyses the drivers of Korea’s engagement in Central Asia and Russia.

Aims
The course seeks to achieve the following aims:

- Define and critically discuss a small number of key concepts (nations, nationalism, diaspora)
- Understand the specific case of the Korean diaspora, its origin and dynamics;
- Account for the role of middle powers in post-Soviet politics.

Learning outcomes
By the end of the course students will be able to:

- apply key analytical tools to empirical cases;
- understand the evolving geopolitical environment and how it affects regional politics;
- locate the case study in a comparative perspective;
- account for intra-group variation as regards cultural and political allegiance;
- Explain the drivers of Korea’s foreign policy towards the post-Soviet space.

Assessment
Participation: 30%
Group presentation: 20%
Final in-class debate: 20%
# Grading scale

**ECTS Grading System**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Student %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Outstanding performance with minor errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Above the average standard but with some errors</td>
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<tr>
<td>/B+</td>
<td></td>
<td>Generally sound work with a number of notable errors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+/B-</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Fair but with significant shortcomings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/B-</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Performance meets the minimum criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Some more work required before the credit can be awarded</td>
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<tr>
<td>INC</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Considerable further work is required</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Considerable further work is required</td>
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**Reading list**
All readings are available on the Blackboard website of AUCA

**MONDAY 6 APRIL**

**Session: 1 Introduction**
Course overview, assessment, guidelines for the presentations and the debate

**Session 2 Key concepts I: Nations, nationalism**


**TUESDAY 7 APRIL**

**Session 3 Key concepts II: Diasporas**

**Session 4 Historical Context**

**WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL**

**Session 5 State- and nation-building in the post-Soviet space**

**Session 6 Origins of the Koryo Saram**

THURSDAY 9 APRIL

Session 7 Homeland(s) I


Session 8 Homeland(s) II


FRIDAY 10 APRIL

Session 9 Great Power Contest in Central Asia


Session 10 Global Korea


Session 11 Korea’s foreign policy towards Central Asia


Session 12 Debate