

COURSE DETAIL

UNDERSTANDING KOREAN CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

Country

Korea, South

Host Institution

Seoul National University

Program(s)

Seoul National University

UCEAP Course Level

Lower Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

History

UCEAP Course Number

18

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

UNDERSTANDING KOREAN CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

UCEAP Transcript Title

KOREAN CONTEMP HIST

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This general survey course is intended to introduce primarily international students to contemporary South Korean history, covering the period roughly from 1945 to the 1990s. Participation in this class does not require knowledge of modern or contemporary Korean history, nor fluency in the Korean language. After a brief overview of Korea's colonial past in order to contextualise post-1945 developments, the course focuses on major political, social, economic, and ideological transformations from liberation to the end of the Cold War era.

Key topics include the liberation and U.S. occupation period, the Korean War, authoritarian military regimes, and democratic movements. While the course is conducted entirely in English, including all required reading materials, it aims to introduce students to central concepts, historical figures, and key issues in South Korean history, thereby providing a foundation for more advanced study.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

C20.153

Host Institution Course Title

UNDERSTANDING KOREAN CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

Host Institution Course Details

<https://sugang.snu.ac.kr/>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Course Last Reviewed

2025-2026

[Print](#)