

North Korea Summer School: Inside North Korean Literature, Art and Film

May 16 – May 27, 2022 | York University, Toronto

The **North Korea Summer School: Inside North Korean Literature, Art and Film** is a unique opportunity for graduate and undergraduate-level students to explore aspects of contemporary North Korean culture with a focus on literature, film, fine-art and propaganda. This intense and highly interactive two-week summer school is taught by Professor Immanuel Kim and Mr. Nicholas Bonner.

Immanuel Kim is Korea Foundation and Kim-Renaud Associate Professor of Korean Literature and



Culture Studies, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at George Washington University. He is author of *Laughing North Koreans: Culture of the Film Industry*, Lexington Books, 2020; and *Rewriting Revolution: Women, Sexuality, and Memory in North Korean Fiction*, University of Hawaii Press, 2018. He is also translator of *Friend: A Novel from North Korea*, by Paek Nam-nyong, Columbia University Press, 2020.

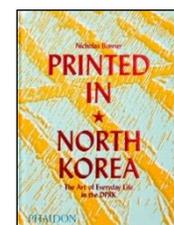
Nicholas Bonner, is author of *Made in North Korea: Graphics from Everyday Life in the DPRK*, Phaidon 2017 and co-author of *Printed in North Korea: The Art of Everyday Life in the DPRK*, Phaidon 2019. He has been involved in the production of various documentary films on North Korea including *Crossing the Line* and the feature film *Comrade Kim Goes Flying*. He is the head of [Koryo Studio](#) and has been travelling to North Korea most months since 1993. He has commissioned North Koreans artists and architects on various projects including the Asia Pacific Triennial and Venice Architectural Biennial.



The first week of the summer school, directed by Professor Kim, will be an introduction to key elements of North Korean culture. For this part of the course students are asked to read the translation of the novel *Friend* by Nam-nyong Paek, one of North Korea's most popular contemporary writers. A best-seller in North Korea, where Paek continues to live and write, *Friend* describes the lives of people who struggle with everyday problems such as marital woes and workplace conflicts. Instead of socialist-realist stock figures, Paek depicts complex characters who wrestle with universal questions of individual identity, the split between public and private selves, the unpredictability of existence, and the never-ending labour of maintaining a relationship.



The second part of the course will be directed by Mr. Bonner and focus on topics such as levels and channels of foreign engagement with culture, the progression of graphics on domestic consumer items and the factors that facilitate this progression; North Korea's strict socialist realism theme in visual art as well as other mediums. Mr. Bonner will discuss his experience in participation in various art and film projects including what he has learned from directly engaging with these means of cultural production.



The non-credit summer school is open to graduate students and upper year undergraduate students at York University and other universities in North America and around the world, as well as others (journalists, researchers, artists) with a deep interest in North Korea. There is no cost to attend the summer school, but space is limited. Graduate students who are conducting research on North Korea

can apply for funding to support their travel and accommodation costs. The summer school is taught in English, and no knowledge of the Korean language is required.

The summer school will be held from Monday to Friday for two weeks from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on the Keele Campus of [York University](https://www.yorku.ca/). York University is Canada's third largest university with a community of 53,000 students and 7,000 faculty and staff. The Keele Campus is easily accessible by subway and other transportation routes and modes, and has a range of affordable on-campus housing options. Please see: <https://studenthousing.info.yorku.ca/housing-services/>

Students interested in the summer school should submit the [Summer Course Application Form](#) along with a resume or CV. The application will be accepted by Friday, March 4, 2022. Only those who have been accepted will be able to participate. A letter of participation will be provided to all students at the completion of the summer school.

The summer school is presented by the Korean Office for Research and Education ([KORE](#)) at York University, which is funded by the Academy of Korean Studies. Additional funding is provided by the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies at York University. This summer school is coordinated by Professor Thomas Klassen. Peyton Bechard is providing support for the summer school. For more information please contact Professor Klassen at tklassen@yorku.ca.



Filming of Comrade Kim Goes Flying, Pyongyang, 2010, N. Bonner



Street scene, Pyongyang, 2016, T. Klassen



Mass Games, Glorious Country, Pyongyang, 2018, N. Bonner



Im Hyok 'Break Time' ink on paper, Asia Pacific Triennial, 2013, N. Bonner



Kim Il Sung Square, Pyongyang, 105th anniversary celebrations of the birth of Kim Il Sung, 2017, N. Bonner