

About the legal System of Korea Class
(Professor: Attorney Moosang Kim)

Seregy Leshchnko

It is really not so easy to write about this class, because I have controversial feelings about it. I tried to think about the situation both from the point of view of students and the point of view of the professor.

It seems to me that after the first meeting with us the professor was facing a dilemma; according to the course topic and to the previously distributed syllabus the professor had to teach us Korean Law, but on the other hand, he discovered that all of us have different educational backgrounds, sometimes having nothing to do with law.

Thus, it seems not so easy for both sides to deal strictly with Korean law. Moreover, it seemed not to be very interesting and effective to concentrate only on one book about Korean law, which was available in English. Besides, the one-semester length of the course put the time pressure on both the professor and us.

Finally, the informal compromise was reached between the professor and the students on the premise of making the class as useful as possible on the basis of no hardship for both sides.

On these grounds the professor tried to teach us the concept of legal mind and give us a feeling of it, operating on different level of consciousness and touching the basics of our vision of the world.

It was really interesting, though it was not strictly related to the concept of the Legal System class at the GSIS as I understand it. Briefly speaking, instead of obtaining mostly practical knowledge, we were able to enrich our basic world outlook and try to feel what the legal minds is. Professor touched the topics, related to politology, diplomacy, formal logic etc. He tried to make us think creatively and analytically.

Thus, I tend to think that the compromise we made is practical. Moreover, for the majority of the class it is not so important to know the details of Korean Law, since they are not likely either to specialize in the research of Korea or to do business in this country. I do not know what they expected to get from this class, but I think that all of us got something, which might be much more important than the formal knowledge of Korean legal system and strong bonding.