

UW-Madison
History Department

Hist 225: Korean History, 1945 to present

Instructor: Dr. Charles Kim
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Lectures:

TR 11:00-12:15
Location: Humanities 1101

Discussion Sections:

R 2:25-3:15, Vilas 4017
R 3:30-4:20, White 4275
F 9:55-10:45, Van Vleck B309
F 11:00-11:15, Van Vleck B309

This course examines the politics, society, and culture of North and South Korea with a focus on the key developments of national division (1945-1948) and civil war (1950-1953), as well as the unification issue (1953 – present). We will pay close attention to the topics of postcolonialism, cold war ideologies, national development, and political activism. The aim of this course is to furnish you with tools for a critical understanding of modern Korean history and contemporary Korean politics, society, and culture through written exercises, oral presentations, and collegial discussions.

Required Texts:

Bruce CUMINGS, *The Korean War: A History* (New York: Random House Publishing Group, 2010)

Hildi KANG, *Under the Black Umbrella: Voices from Colonial Korea, 1910-1945* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2001)

KIM Yong, *Long Road Home: Testimony of a North Korean Camp Survivor* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009)

Course Reader, available at the Humanities Copy Center (1650 Humanities Building)

Grading:

- (1) Attendance and Participation: Regular attendance and consistent participation are expected from all students. Class participation, both in lectures and discussion sections, will make up 10% of your final grade.
- (2) Pop Quizzes: Reading the assigned articles and book chapters is an important part of this course. For this reason, I will occasionally administer a pop quiz for the assigned reading of the day to make sure that everyone is keeping up. Pop quizzes will amount to 5% of the final grade.
- (3) Blog: Each discussion section will have an edublog. Your section blog is a forum for you to reflect on and raise questions about the topics of this course. You can write an entry in response to any lecture, reading, film, or group presentation over the course of the semester. I also encourage you to comment on each other's blog entries. You can reinforce, expand on, and disagree (respectfully) with earlier postings. You're also entirely welcome to bring in a contemporary news story or film or TV series or other topic that relates somehow to this class.

You will be graded for your top 6 blog entries and your comments on entries written by your classmates. Feel free to post more than 6 entries. Blog entries will amount to 15% of the final grade (6 blog entries x 2% = 12% + 3% for the comments you contribute over the course of the semester).
- (4) Papers: You will write two 5-6 page paper (12-font, double-spaced) due on Oct. 7 and Nov. 18. Each paper will make up 20% of your final grade for a total of 40%.
- (5) Group Presentation: For each section of this course, we will devote a class meeting to group presentations on topics relevant to the section. Each group will consist of 3-5 students. Start thinking early about which section you would like to present on. This assignment will amount to 20% of your final grade.
- (6) Take-home Final: The final is due as an email attachment by 5 p.m., Dec. 17. It will make up 10% of your final grade.

(7) Recap of Grading:

Class Participation = 10%
Pop Quizzes = 5%
Blog Entries = 15%
Papers = (2 x 40% =) 40%
Group Presentation = 20%
Final = 10%

Course Regulations:

- (1) Laptops may only be used in class to take or refer to notes.
- (2) Late paper submissions will receive a 5-point deduction for each late day.
- (3) Plagiarism – the use of another person’s words or ideas without citation – will not be tolerated in any assignment for this course.
- (4) Be accountable. Carefully read this syllabus, course emails, and assignment guidelines, and pay attention to announcements in class and in sections. When in doubt, ask me, the TA, or a classmate.

Note on Romanization:

Nowadays, Korean is written primarily in *Hangeul*, a phonetic script invented in the fifteenth century. *Hangeul* is well suited for the Korean language; the Roman alphabet is not. There are two widely used Romanization system for modern Korean: the **McCune Reischauer System** (MCR) and the **Revised Romanization System** (RR). The South Korean government adopted the latter system in 2000, and its use has expanded a lot since then, especially in South Korean publications. The MCR System was created in the 1930s and remains the Romanization system of choice among scholars, librarians, and publishers. As a result, most scholarly articles and books use the MCR System. In this class, we will use the RR system. There are pros and cons for each system. I have chosen to use the RR system because it does not use diacritical marks, which makes it easier to type and spell. I will do my best to provide the RR Romanization of key terms and figures that appear in the readings in MCR. And always feel free to ask if there’s a Romanized word that you’re not sure about.

Thurs., 9/2 – Preliminaries

I. The Colonial Era

Tues., 9/7 – Japanese Colonial Rule, 1910-1919

Charles K. ARMSTRONG, *The Koreas* (London: Routledge, 2007), 1-20

Hildi KANG, *Under the Black Umbrella*, 1-23

Thurs., 9/9 – Japanese Colonial Rule, 1919-1945

Hildi KANG, *Under the Black Umbrella*, 24-98

Tues., 9/14 – Wartime Cultural Production (1)

Spring on the Peninsula (*Bando ui bom*, dir. YI, Byeong-il, 1941, 84 min.)

Hildi KANG, *Under the Black Umbrella*, 99-147

Thurs., 9/16 – Wartime Cultural Production (2)

Spring on the Peninsula, cont.

Michael KIM, "The Aesthetics of Total Mobilisation in the Visual Culture of Late Colonial Korea," *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions* 8:3-4 (September 2007), 483-502

Tues., 9/21 – Remembering the Colonial Era

Carter ECKERT, "Total War, Industrialization, and Social Change in Late Colonial Korea," in *The Japanese Wartime Empire, 1931 – 1945* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1996), 1-39

II. Liberation-National Division-War

Thurs., 9/23 – Liberation and Competing Ideologies

Bruce CUMINGS, *The Korean War*, xv-35

Tues., 9/28 – US Occupation and South Korea

Bruce CUMINGS, *The Korean War*, 37-100

Thurs., 9/30 – Soviet Occupation and North Korea

Bruce CUMINGS, *The Korean War*, 101-161

Tues., 10/5 – Group Presentations (I)

Thurs., 10/7 – The Korean War (I)

Bruce CUMINGS, *The Korean War*, 163-203

FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Tues., 10/12 – The Korean War (II)

Bruce CUMINGS, *The Korean War*, 205-243

Thurs., 10/14 – Remembering the Korean War

CHO, Chôngnae, "Land of Exile," in *Land of Exile: Contemporary Korean Fiction* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2007), 176-214

Tues., 10/19 – Group Presentations (II)

III. North Korea, 1953 - present

Thurs., 10/21 – *Juche* Ideology

KIM, Yong, *Long Road Home*, 1-34

Tues., 10/26 – *Juche* in Action

Documentary: *The Game of Their Lives* (dir. Daniel Gordon, 2002)

KIM, Yong, *Long Road Home*, 35-78

Charles K. ARMSTRONG, *The Koreas* (London: Routledge, 2007), 57-88

Thurs., 10/28 – Economic Rise and Decline

KIM, Yong, *Long Road Home*, 79-126

Tues., 11/2 – North Korea Today

KIM, Yong, *Long Road Home*, 127-163

Thurs., 11/4 – Group Presentations (III)

Tues., 11/9 – Reading Day (no lecture)

IV. South Korea, 1953 - present

Thurs., 11/11 – Economic Development

Michael J. SETH, "South Korea from Poverty to Prosperity, 1953-1997," in *A Concise History of Modern Korea* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2010), 149-180

Tues., 11/16 – Activism

Michael J. SETH, "South Korea – Creating a Democratic Society, 1953-1997," in *A Concise History of Modern Korea* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2010), 181-212

Thurs., 11/18 – South Korea Today

Uhn CHO, "The Encroachment of Globalization into Intimate Life: The Flexible Korean Family in 'Economic Crisis'," *Korea Journal* (Autumn 2005), 8-35

SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Tues., 11/23 – Group Presentations (IV)

V. Between North and South

Tues., 11/30 – Inter-Korea Relations

Norman D. LEVIN and Yong Sup HAN, *Sunshine in Korea: The South Korean Debate Over Policies Toward North Korea* (Santa Monica, Calif.: RAND, 2002), 1-31

Thurs., 12/2 – Ending the Korean War (1)

Welcome To Dongmakgol (dir. PARK, Kwang-Hyun, 2005, 133 min.)

Website for the National Campaign to End the Korean War:

<http://endthekoreanwar.org/index.php>

Examine this website carefully in preparation for discussion section. In particular, look under “Learn.”

Tues., 12/7 – Ending the Korean War (2)

Welcome To Dongmakgol (dir. PARK, Kwang-Hyun, 2005, 133 min.)

Thurs., 12/9 – Group Presentations (V)

Tues., 12/14 – Take-home Final Preparation

Fri., 12/17 – **Take-home Final due by 5 p.m.**

