

MODERN KOREA
HIS 382-01, Spring 2007
GRAM 212, MW 2:00-3:15 p.m.

Instructor: Seonmin Kim
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Office Hours: Thursdays 10-12:00 a.m., and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

How do we place the history of Korea in the development of East Asia since the twentieth century? How do we understand the successful development of the South Korean economy and the current crisis with North Korea? This course helps us search for answers to these questions by exploring the history of modern Korea from the late nineteenth century up to the present. Beginning with the opening of Chosŏn Korea in 1876, we trace the Korean history from the Chosŏn dynasty to the Japanese colonial rule, the Korean War, and the two Koreas. We will examine the internal dynamics of modern Korea such as Korean nationalism in the 1930s as well as the democratization movement in the 1980s. At the same time, we will analyze the formation and development of modern Korea in its close relationships with China, Japan, and the United States.

REQUIRED BOOKS

1. Carter J. Eckert. *Korea Old and New: A History*. Harvard University Press, 1990.
2. Bruce Cumings. *Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2002.
3. Catherine Moon. *Sex Among Allies: Military Prostitution in U.S.-Korean Relations*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1997.
4. Charles J. Hanley, Sang-hun Choe and Martha Mendoza. *The Bridge at No Gun Ri: A Hidden Nightmare from the Korean War*. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 2001.

Additional readings with * are available on the Blackboard.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. **Class attendance and participation (10%)**: Class participation in the discussion of the reading materials and attendance is essential. Absences of more than **1 meeting** will be marked down and will affect your final grade.
2. **Reading responses (2 X 10 = 20 %)**: You are required to answer to the questions about given readings. You are to submit a one-page, in 12 point font and single-spaced response after Wednesday class. No late submission or submission via email is accepted.

3. **Map Quiz (10%):** A map quiz will be tested to identify regional names and locations in China and some parts of East Asia on January 31st (Wednesday). No make-up quiz will be offered.
4. **Group Presentation (10%):** You are required to make a group presentation based on the assigned readings for the selected week. The presentation in class should be around 20 minutes. It is a group project, therefore each group member will receive same grade regardless of their different contributions to presentation.
5. **Two Mid-term Exams (2 X 10 = 20%):** There is an exam in class on. Questions are selected from lectures, class discussions, and weekly readings. No make-up quiz will be offered.
6. **Book Review (10%):** You are required to read book, *The Bridge at No Gun Ri*, and write a 4-page, in 12 point font and double-spaced review. No late submission or submission via email is accepted.
7. **Final Take Home Exam (20%):** There is a 5 page, in 12 point font and double-spaced take-home exam. Cumulative exam based on lectures and readings. Questions will be given on the last day of the class, April 30th (Wednesday). The exams will be due in my office no later than 3 pm on May 5th (Wednesday). No late submission or submission via email is accepted.

CLASS REGULATIONS

1. No incomplete is given for this class.
2. Laptops can be used during the class, but no web browsing is allowed. If it is found, points will be deducted from the class attendance and participation.
3. Plagiarism (*Intentionally or knowingly representing the words of another, as one's own in any academic exercise*): Plagiarism is a serious crime. It may occur on any paper, report, or other work submitted to fulfill course requirements. This includes submitting work done by another, whether a commercial or non-commercial enterprise, including web sites, as one's own work. If a student submits works done by or copied from another, including a fellow student, a previous student, or anyone other than the student responsible for the assignment, s/he will receive F on assignment or be recommended for expulsion.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 Course Introduction

1/8 Course Overview; Geography of Korea and East Asia

1/12 Film in class: "The Fight for Democracy"

Week 2 Chosôn Korea

1/15 MLK Memorial Day: No class

1/17 Reading for lecture: *Korea Old and New*, chapter 8 & 9.

Week 3 East Asian Neighbors

1/22 Reading for lecture: *Korea Old and New*, chapter 10.

1/24 **Map Quiz**

Reading for response 1: *Kim Kye-Hiuk, *The East Asian World Order*.

Question for response 1:

"Explain the tributary system under which Korea built its relationships with China and Japan. How do you describe the position of Korea in traditional East Asia? Has it been changed or not in regional dynamics in contemporary East Asia? Why do you think so?"

Week 4 Opening of Korea

1/29 Reading for lecture: *Korea Old and New*, chapter 12.

1/31 Presentation 1: "Tonghak Peasant Rebellion"

Reading for response 2: *Korea's Place in the Sun*, 86-120.

*"Ch'oe Ikhyôn: Memorial against peace"

**"The 1894 uprisings"

Question for response 2:

"Explain Korean response to foreign influences in the late nineteenth century, especially focusing on Ch'oe Ikhyôn's memorial. In what sense was the Tonghak peasant uprising related to the foreign influences?"

Week 5 Korea between Empires

2/5 Reading for lecture: *Korea Old and New*, chapter 13 & 14.

2/7 Presentation 2: "China vs. Japan"

Reading for response 3: *Korea's Place in the Sun*, 120-138.
*Peter Duus, *The Abacus and the Sword*.

Question for response 3:
"Answer to Peter Duus' question "Why did Japan begin to acquire an overseas colonial empire in the late Meiji period." Why and how did Meiji Japan adopt an expansionist policy for its modernization?"

Week 6 Japanese colonial rule

2/12 Reading for lecture: *Korea Old and New*, chapter 15 &16.

2/14 Presentation 3: "Japanese Colonialism in Korea"
Film in class: "The Murmuring"

Reading for response 4: *Korea's Place in the Sun*, 139-174.
*"Strategies for regaining national independence"

Question for response 4:
"Explain what Bruce Cumings means by 'Developmental Colonialism.' How did Koreans respond to Japanese colonial rule? What do you think of Korean gradualists, nationalists and socialists? What did Korean nationalists in "Strategies for regaining national independence" appeal to America regarding Korean independence?"

Week 7 WWII in East Asia

2/19 Reading for lecture: *Korea Old and New*, chapter 17.

2/21 Presentation 4: "Korean Nationalist Movement"
Reading for response 5: *Korea's Place in the Sun*, 174-184.
*Michael Robinson, *Cultural Nationalism*.

Question for response 5:
"Discuss the development of Korean nationalist culture during the period of 1920-25. What kind of roles did Korean vernacular papers play in the formation of Korean nationalism? What do you think of Yi Kwangsu's 'Treaties on the Reconstruction of the Nation'? How do you think this cultural movement worked for both Korean nationalism AND Japanese colonialism?"

Week 8 The Cold War

2/26 Reading for lecture: *Korea Old and New*, chapter 18.

2/28 **First Mid-term exam**

Week 9 Spring Break: No class

Week 10 The Korean War

3/12 Reading for lecture: *Korea's Place in the Sun*, 185-217.

3/14 Presentation 5: "U.S. and the Korean War"
Reading for response 6: *Korea's Place in the Sun*, 217-236.
 *“Kim Ku and Korean nationalism”

Question for response 6:
“Discuss the ideological division in South Korea prior to the outbreak of the Korean War. How did the tensions between right wings and left wings consolidate the division of Korean? What did Kim Ku appeal to Koreans for reunification of the country?”

Week 11 Legacy of the War

3/19 Reading for lecture: *Korea's Place in the Sun*, 237-298.

3/21 Film in class: “Taegukgi”
Book Review of *The Bridge at No Gun Ri*

Week 12 South Korea: Military Regimes

3/26 Reading for lecture: *Korea Old and New*, chapter 19.

3/28 Presentation 6: “Yushin System”
Reading for response 7: *Korea's Place in the Sun*, 337-367.
 *“Pak Chônghûi and economic development in South Korea”

Question for response 7:
“Discuss the development of military regimes in South Korea. What was the distinctive feature of the Yushin System? What do you read from Pak Chônghûi’s remark? What kind of nation do you think he would build?”

Week 13 South Korea: Economic Miracle

4/2 Reading for lecture: *Korea Old and New*, chapter 20.

4/4 Presentation 7: “Kwangju Massacre in 1980”
Reading for response 8: *Korea's Place in the Sun*, 299-322.
 *Stephan Haggard, “The State, Politics, and Economic Development”

Question for response 8:
“Explain the role of the state in South Korea’s rapid economic development. How did the military regimes lead the economic development during the period

from the 1960s to 80s? What kind of relationship did big business conglomerates (*chaebôls*) have with the state? What legacies do you think this relationship left on South Korea?"

Week 14 U.S. and South Korea

4/9 Reading for lecture: *Korea's Place in the Sun*, 367-393.

4/11 Presentation 8: "U.S. Army in South Korea"
Reading for response 9: Catherine Moon, *Sex Among Allies*, chapter 1 & 3.

Question for response 9:

"Discuss the ways in which the United States army stationed in South Korea influenced Korean politics, economy and culture. What was the "Camptown Clean-Up Campaign" and how it was preceded? What do you think of the South Korean government's policies of the U.S. army bases and Korean prostitutes working there?"

Week 15 North Korea

4/16 Reading for lecture: *Korea's Place in the Sun*, 394-433.

4/18 Film in class: "A State of Mind"
Reading for response 10: *Charles Armstrong, *Korea at the Center*.

Question for response 10:

"Discuss the relationships among the socialist countries in East Asia, including the Soviet Union, China and North Korea. How did the Sino-Soviet split affect North Korea? What do you think of the tensions over the proliferation of nuclear weapons in Asia, especially China in the 1960s and North Korea from the 1990s to the present?"

Week 16 Korea Today

4/23 **Second Mid-term exam**

4/25 Film in class: "Repatriation"

Week 17 Final

4/30 Final exam questions will be distributed in class.
Take Home Exam: Due by 3 pm on May 7th (Monday) to 2111 HHRA