

HH3020: Introduction to Korean History
SEM 1 AY 2017-2018

Asst Prof Park Hyung Wook



Contact:

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I. Course Description:

This is a seminar course in the history of Korea, focusing on its modern part. Students will be able to study the major issues in the creation of the Korean nation, the national identity, the growth of its unique social and political structure, and the technological and industrial growth in the modern period. The primary subjects in the seminar include premodern development of the Korean nation and culture, the Japanese colonial era, the liberation after World War II, the Korean War, and the period after the mid-twentieth century when Koreans experienced the shock of their rapid industrialization and urbanization. Students will learn the dynamics of the Korean history which placed the country in the changing global landscape in the contemporary world.

II. Course Design:

There will be a three-hour seminar each week. For the first 40 minutes, the professor will introduce the day's main subjects with certain points for further thinking. Then, some students will present their analysis of newspapers relevant to the week's theme. The following hours will be used for group discussion based on the selected pre-class questions. Each group, before the end of the seminar, will present their discussion in front of other students. The result of the discussion should be uploaded in NTULearn.

III. Course Schedule and Readings:

The Course Readings:

There are two kinds of readings, the required and the optional. The required readings are the articles or book chapters that you must finish before coming to the class. The optional readings are those you are encouraged to read if you are particularly interested in a subject. These

readings can be selectively used for writing your first essay. All the book chapters or journal articles in the required list are available for downloading in the courseweb in NTULearn. Most of the books or book chapters in the optional list are stored in the NTU (HSS) or NIE libraries' reserve collection. Some articles among them can be downloaded from the courseweb in NTULearn. Any missing ones are available in the professor's office.

The Historical Films for the Course:

South Korea has developed a strong movie industry, which is now internationally renowned. One crucial product of this prospering industry is its historical films. Although some of these films have been criticized for their misleading interpretations, there are a number of more serious movies that have been acclaimed for their novel perspectives and deep historical insight. I think that watching these films can be a good way to learn history and its varied standpoints, especially in relation to Korea's contemporary problems. Moreover, many of the historical films, with good acting, realistic costume, and nuanced narrative, are quite fun to watch! The professor will occasionally show movie clips during the seminar, and the students may watch them in full in NTU's Business and Communication & Information Libraries. (Some of the mentioned movies are yet to be delivered to NTU.) These movies can be used for writing your second essay. For other classic movies produced from the 1940s to the 1980s, visit the Korean Film Archive's Youtube page: <https://www.youtube.com/user/KoreanFilm/videos>

1. Introduction & Major Questions

Required Readings:

- Michael Robinson, *Korea's Twentieth Century Odyssey: A Short History* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007), pp. 1-7.
- James B. Palais, "A Search for Korean Uniqueness," *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 55 (1995), pp. 409-425.
- Martina Deuchler, "The Flow of Ideas and Institutions—James Palais, His Critics and Friends," *Seoul Journal of Korean Studies* 21 (2008), pp. 313-322.

2. Late Chosŏn Korea and the Mirage of Modernity

Required Readings:

- Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History* (New York: Norton, 2005), pp. 67-85.
- Tae-Jin Yi, "King Chŏngjo: Confucianism, Enlightenment, and Absolute Rule," *Korea Journal* 40 (2000), pp. 168-201.
- Donald Baker, "Jesuit Science through Korean Eyes," *Journal of Korean Studies* 4 (1983), pp. 207-239.

Movies: *The Eternal Empire* (1995)

3. Civil Society in Chosŏn Dynasty?

Required Readings:

- Hein Cho, "The Historical Origin of Civil Society in Korea," *Korea Journal* 37 (1997), 24-41.
- David Steinberg, "Civil Society and Human Rights in Korea," *Korea Journal* 37 (1997), 145-165.
- John Duncan, "The Problematic Modernity of Confucianism: The Question of 'Civil Society' in Chosŏn Dynasty Korea," in Charles K. Armstrong (ed.), *Korean Society: Civil Society, Democracy, and the State* (London: Routledge, 2002), pp. 33-52.

4. Problems on Colonial Modernity

Required Readings:

Robinson, *Korea's Twentieth Century Odyssey*, pp. 76-82, 87-92.

Carter Eckert, *Offspring of Empire: The Koch'ang Kims and the Colonial Origins of Korean Capitalism, 1876-1945* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1991), pp. xvii-xxii, 27-59.

Gi-Wook Shin and Michael Robinson, "Introduction: Rethinking Colonial Korea," in Gi-Wook Shin and Michael Robinson (eds.), *Colonial Modernity in Korea* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1999), pp. 1-20.

Myoun-hoi Do, "The Implications of Colonial Modernity without Colonialism," *Korea Journal* 44 (2004), pp. 189-209.

"Korea's New History Textbook Stirs Ideological Debate," *China Daily USA* (13 June 2013).

Movies: *Blue Swallow* (Cheong Yeon, 2005), *YMCA Baseball Team* (2002)

5. War, Manchuria, and the Bitter Memories of Modernity

Required Reading:

Robinson, *Korea's Twentieth Century Odyssey*, pp. 82-87, 97-99.

Suk-Jung Han, "Those Who Imitated the Colonizers," in Mariko Asano Tamanoi (ed.), *Crossed Histories: Manchuria in the Age of Empire* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2005), pp. 165-183.

Carter Eckert, "Total War, Industrialization, and Social Change in Late Colonial Korea," in Peter Duus, Ramon H. Myers, and Mark R. Peattie (eds.), *The Japanese Wartime Empire, 1931-1945* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996), pp. 3-39.

6. Liberation and Conflicts

Required Readings:

Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, pp. 185-236.

Gregg Brazinsky, *Nation Building in South Korea: Koreans, Americans, and the Making of a Democracy* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007), pp. 13-40.

John Lewis Gaddis, "Korea in American Politics, Strategy, and Diplomacy, 1945-50," in Yonosuke Nagai and Akira Iriye (eds.), *The Origins of the Cold War in Asia* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1977), pp. 277-298.

Movies: *Welcome to Dongmakgol* (2005), *Taegukgi* (2004)

7. Shaping Culture and Politics in the North

Required Readings:

Charles K. Armstrong, *The North Korea Revolution, 1945-1950* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2003), pp. 1-12, 38-106.

Bradley Martin, *Under the Loving Care of the Fatherly Leader* (New York: Thomas, 2006), pp. 1-28.

Movies: *The Game of Their Lives* (2002), *Our School* (2006) [in the professor's DVD collection]

8. Park Chung Hee and His Contested Legacy

Required Readings:

Robinson, *Korea's Twentieth Century Odyssey*, pp. 121-140.

Seungsook Moon, *Militarized Modernity and Gendered Citizenship in South Korea* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005), pp. 17-67.

Chung-in Moon and Byung-joon Jun, "Modernization Strategy: Ideas and Influences," in Byung Kook Kim and Ezra F. Vogel (eds.), *The Park Chung Hee Era: The Transformation of South Korea* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2011), pp. 115-139.

Movies: *The President's Barber* (2004), *The President's Last Bang* (2005), *Gangnam 1970* (2015); *Once upon a Time in High School* (2004) [the latter two in the professor's DVD collection]

9. Science, Technology, and the Ironies in Nation-Building

Required Readings:

Chihyung Jeon, "A Road to Modernization and Unification: The Construction of Geyongbu Highway in South Korea," *Technology and Culture* 51 (2010), pp. 55-79.

John Paul DiMoia, *Reconstructing Bodies: Biomedicine, Health, and Nation-Building in South Korea since 1945* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2013), pp. 72-106.

Dongwon Kim, "Two Chemists in Two Koreas," *Ambix* 52 (2005), pp. 67-84.

Movies: *The Rose of Sharon Blooms Again* (1995) [in the professor's collection, no English sub]

10. Making Korean Democracy

Required Readings:

Robinson, *Korea's Twentieth Century Odyssey*, pp. 140-145, 167-178

Brazinsky, *Nation Building in South Korea*, 1-11, 41-70, 223-250.

Namhee Lee, "The South Korean Student Movement: Undongkwön as a Counterpublic Sphere," in *Korean Society*, pp. 95-120.

Movies: *Peppermint Candy* (1999), *Oraedoen Chöngwön* (Old Garden, 2007)

11. Historical Memories and Their Reinvention

Required Readings:

Sallie Yea, "Reinventing the Region: The Cultural Politics of Place in Kwangju City and South Chölla Province," in Gi-Wook Shin and Kyung Moon Hwang (eds.), *Contentious Kwangju: The May 18 Uprising in Korea's Past and Present* (Lanham: Rowman, 2003), pp. 109-131.

Song-nae Kim, "Mourning Korean Modernity in the Memory of the Cheju April Third Incident," *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 1 (2000), pp. 461-476.

Sheila Miyoshi Jager and Jiyun Kim, "The Korean War after the Cold War," in Sheila Miyoshi Jager and Rana Mitter (eds.), *Ruptured Histories* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007), pp. 233-265.

Movies: *Ji Seul* (2012), *May 18* (2007), *Joint Security Area* (2002)

12. Religion and Religious Culture in Contemporary Society

Required Readings:

Kelly H. Chong, "Negotiating Patriarchy: South Korean Evangelical Women and the Politics of Gender," *Gender and Society* 20 (2006), pp. 697-724.

Kyuhoon Cho, "Another Christian Right? The Politicization of Korean Protestantism in Contemporary Global Society," *Social Compass* 61 (2014), pp. 310-327.

Seungsook Moon, "Buddhist Temple Food in South Korea: Interests and Agency in the Reinvention of Tradition in the Age of Globalization," *Korea Journal* 48 (2008), pp. 147-180.

Movies: *Quo vadis* (2014) [in the professor's collection, no English sub]

13. Gender, Sexuality, and the Troubled Nation

Stephen Epstein and James Turnbull, "Girls' Generation? Gender, (Dis)Empowerment, and K-pop," in Kyung Hyun Kim and Younglim Choe (eds.), *The Korean Popular Culture Reader* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2014), pp. 314-336.

Jee Eun Regina Song, "The Soybean Paste Girl: The Cultural and Gender Politics of Coffee Consumption in Contemporary South Korea," *Journal of Korean Studies* 19 (2014),

pp. 429-448.

Seungsook Moon, "Women and Civil Society in South Korea," in *Korean Society*, pp. 121-148.

Movies: *200 Pound Beauty* (2005) [in youtube.com]

VI. Evaluation:

1. Essay Assignment 1: (30%)

Students should write an essay about a topic they choose using at least three research papers or book chapters (excluding newspaper articles) in the optional reading list. The word number should be about 1,500 (excluding bibliography and footnotes). Although it is recommended that students select one among the weekly discussion topics, they can create a new subject after perusing their papers. The format of the paper can be a review, but it should still have a strong and clear argument based on each student's diligent reading and analysis of the resources. The essay should be submitted to the course's NTULearn website in the form of the MS word file (a pdf file is not recommended).

2. Essay Assignment 2: (25%)

Students should watch a historical movie and write a review. The word number is about 1,000 (excluding bibliography and footnotes), and the movie should be chosen among those listed in the syllabus. (Students may choose one in the Korean Film Archive's collection). The essay must not be a mere summary of the movie's story or plot. It ought to reflect the course readings as well as your own perspective on them. It is required that students' essay cite a least 3 papers in the syllabus. The essay should critically deal with one of the major issues addressed in the course, such as colonial modernity, ideological confrontation, or gender problems in contemporary society. It is also possible that students investigate the time when the movie was filmed rather than the time it aimed to depict. The context of the time of its production might let us know much more than the historical situation it attempts to describe. The essay should be submitted to the course's NTULearn website in the form of the MS word file (a pdf file is not recommended).

3. Pre-Class Questions: (15%)

After finishing the required readings for each week, every student must submit a question for discussion during the seminar. The question is to be uploaded in the courseweb in NTULearn before Tuesday evening. These questions will be graded according to their relevance, novelty, and ingenuity.

4. Group Discussion Reports in NTULearn: (10%)

After the seminar, each group—which students can create by themselves but cannot be changed after the add/drop period—should submit a short report of discussion to NTULearn after the end of the class. This report reflects the outcome of the class members' conversation about the discussion question assigned to them. The professor's evaluation will be added as a comment, about which students can ask further questions. In each report, there must be a list of participating members.

5. Participation and Attendance in the Seminar: (10%)

Each student's activity and attendance is monitored in every seminar and will be used in the final evaluation. Please try to attend every class and be sure to be proactive during the discussion.

6. Newspaper Analysis: (10%)

Students should present their analysis of a newspaper article. The article needs to be relevant to one of the teaching weeks' topics, and students must clarify in what sense the chosen article is related to class themes. In addition, students ought to show their analysis on the perspective and content of the paper. Articles for analysis can be selected among a variety of newspapers, including *New York Times*, *Straits Times*, and *The Telegraph*, as well as the English version of major Korean newspapers (english.kahn.co.kr / english.donga.com / english.hani.co.kr / english.chosun.com). The articles in the optional reading list can be used. Students who hope to do this assignment in a certain week must let the professor know their plan as well as the newspaper article they chose at least a week in advance. The presentation must not be longer than 10 minutes.

V. Late Submission:

There will be a penalty to a paper submitted after the deadline. The extent of penalty will be decided depending on the general distribution of students' marks in the entire class. But late submission can be excused according to the professor's understanding of the student's circumstances.

VI. Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious academic misconduct and may endanger a student's career in a highly severe way. It is done intentionally or unintentionally by using another person's ideas and writings without any proper citation and/or quotation marks. Paraphrasing is an act of rewriting other people's ideas or arguments using your own words. While this is an acceptable practice in most cases, it can be an issue if you do not indicate that the ideas have come from another person's work. If you are not sure about how you should do regarding these issues, please do cite the referred sources in footnotes/endnotes and use the quotation marks around the terms you did not invent. Even if a student cited a source, direct quotation without quotation marks may be a problem, too. If any plagiarized sentence or paragraph is detected, the grade will be reduced to zero and the student's name will be reported to the school.

VII. List of Optional Readings:

General:

- Michael J. Seth, *A Concise History of Korea: From the Neolithic Period through the Nineteenth Century* (Lanham: Rowman, 2006), pp. 75-180.
Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History* (New York: Norton, 2005)
[Read the other chapters].
Charles K. Armstrong, *The Koreas*, 2nd edition (New York: Routledge, 2014).

Chosŏn Korea:

- Martina Deuchler, *The Confucian Transformation of Korea: A Study of Society and Ideology* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1992).
JaHyun Kim Haboush and Martina Deuchler (eds.), *Culture and State in Late Chosŏn Korea* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1999).
John Duncan, *The Origins of the Chosŏn Dynasty* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2000).
Charlotte Horlyck and Michael Pettid (eds.), *Death, Mourning, and The Afterlife in Korea* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2014), chapters 6-10.
Theodore Jun Yoo, *Politics of Gender in Colonial Korea: Education, Labor, and Health, 1910-1945* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008).

Michael Kalton, "Chŏng Dasan's Philosophy of Man: A Radical Critique of the Neo-Confucian World View," *Journal of Korean Studies* 3 (1981), pp. 3-38.

Colonial Korea:

Gi-Wook Shin and Michael Robinson (eds.), *Colonial Modernity in Korea* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1999) [Read the other chapters].

Peter Duus, *The Abacus and the Sword: The Japanese Penetration of Korea, 1885-1910* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995).

Donald Clark, *Living Dangerously in Korea: The Western Experience, 1900-1950* (Norwalk: Eastbridge, 2003).

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

Science and Technology:

Dongwon Kim, "The Conflict between Image and Role of Physics in South Korea," *Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences* 33 (2002), pp. 107-129.

Dongwon Kim and Stuart Leslie, "Winning Markets or Winning Nobel Prize? KAIST and the Challenges of Late Industrialization," *Osiris* 13 (1998), pp. 154-185.

Sanghyun Kim, "The Politics of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research in South Korea: Contesting National Sociotechnical Imaginaries," *Science as Culture* 23 (2014), pp. 293-319.

Jongyoung Kim, "Alternative Medicine's Encounter with Laboratory Science: The Scientific Construction of Korean Medicine in a Global Age," *Social Studies of Science* 37 (2007), pp. 855-880.

Korean War:

Bruce Cumings, *The Korean War: A History* (New York: Modern Library, 2011).

Allan R. Millet, *The War for Korea, 1945-1950: A House Burning* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2005).

William Stueck, *The Korean War: An International History* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995).

Sang-Hun Choe, "South Korea Admits Civilian Killings during War," *New York Times* (26 November 2009).

Okonogi Masao, "The Domestic Roots of the Korean War," in *Origins of the Cold War in Asia*, pp. 277-298.

Dong Choon Kim, "Forgotten War, Forgotten Massacres—the Korean War (1950-1953) as Licensed Mass Killings," *Journal of Genocide Research* 6 (2004), pp. 523-544.

Democracy and Civil Society:

Hagen Koo, "Engendering Civil Society: The Role of the Labor Movement," in *Korean Society*, pp. 73-94.

Daejung Kim, "Is Culture Destiny? The Myth of Asia's Anti-Democratic Values" *Foreign Affairs* (November/December 1994).

Warren John Tenney, "U.S. Responses to the Tianmen and Kwangju Incidents: American Relations with China and Korea," *Journal of Northeast Asian Studies* 11 (1992), pp. 58-76.

Henry Scott-Stokes and Lee Jai Eui (eds.), *The Kwangju Uprising: Eyewitness Press Accounts of Korea's Tiananmen* (Armonk: Sharpe, 2000) [Hielscher's paper uploaded].

Ha-Yun Jung, "Democracy Takes Office in South Korea," *New York Times* (25 February 2003).

- Sang-Hun Choe, "In Death, Roh Reverses His Fortune Once Again," *New York Times* (28 May 2009).
- Seymour Martin Lipset, "Some Social Requisites of Democracy," *The American Political Science Review* 53 (1959), 69-105.
- Kyung Hyun Kim, *The Remasculinization of Korean Cinema* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005), pp. 1-26, 162-171.

North Korea:

- Barbara Demick, *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea* (New York: Spiegel, 2010).
- Charles Armstrong, *Tyranny of the Weak: North Korea and the World, 1950-1992* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2013).
- Tessa Morris-Suzuki, *Exodus to North Korea: Shadows from Japan's Cold War* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007).
- B. R. Myers, *The Cleanest Race* (Brooklyn: Melville House, 2011).
- Charles K. Armstrong, *The Koreas*, 2nd edition (New York: Routledge, 2014), chapters 3 & 5.
- Young Chul Chung, "The Suryŏng System as the Institution of Collectivist Development," *Journal of Korean Studies* 12 (2007), pp. 43-73.

Park Chung Hee Era:

- Byung-Kook Kim and Ezra F. Vogel (eds.), *The Park Chung Hee Era: The Transformation of South Korea* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2011). [See the rest of the papers]
- Hwasook Nam, *Building Ships, Building a Nation: Korea's Democratic Unionism Under Park Chung Hee* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2011).
- Nak-Chung Paik, "How to Think about the Park Chung Hee Era," *Korea Focus* 13 (2005), pp. 116-124.

Questions on Women and Gender:

- Theodore Jun Yoo, *The Politics of Gender in Colonial Korea: Education, Labor, and Health, 1910-1945* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008).
- Hyaewool Choi, "Wise Mother, Good Wife: A Transcultural Discursive Construct in Modern Korea," *Journal of Korean Studies* 14 (2009), pp. 1-33.
- Sang-Hun Choe, "Group Resists Korean Stigma for Unwed Mothers," *New York Times* (7 October 2009).
- Lucy Williamson, "The Korean Grandmothers Who Sell Sex," *BBC New Magazine* (9 June 2014).

Contemporary Culture:

- Rachael Miyung Joo, *Transnational Sport: Gender, Media, and Global Korea* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2012).
- Kyung Hyun Kim and Younglim Choe (eds.), *The Korean Popular Culture Reader* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2014). [See other chapters, esp. chapter 15.]
- Kyung-Sup Chang, "Risk Components of Compressed Modernity: South Korea as Complex Risk Society," *Korea Journal* 38 (1998), pp. 207-228.
- Jin Gu Lee, "Korean Protestantism as Viewed by Netizens," *Korea Journal* 44 (2004), pp. 223-245.