History 725: Historiography of Modern Korea
Fridays, 4-6 p.m., Humanities 5257

Instructor: Charles Kim    email: ckim45@wisc.edu
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This seminar explores major trends and issues in the historiography of modern Korea, paying close attention to interactions between culture, intellectuals, politics, and social change, as well as the ways in which Korea has fit into regional and global patterns. The focus for the first part of the semester will be the colonial era, and for the second, the postliberation era. Working chronologically and thematically, we will read a mix of influential earlier studies and important recent works. Students will write weekly response papers and a historiographic essay. The primary objective of this course is to provide students with a strong foundation for future research and teaching on modern Korea.

Course Requirements:

(1) Attendance and Participation

(2) 11 response papers (max. 500 words). Post your papers to Learn@UW no later than Thursday, 8 p.m.

(3) Final project for graduate students. Choose between either

   a. Drafting an undergraduate syllabus with at least 50% modern Korea content.

   b. Writing a historiographic essay (15 pages page, double-spaced) on a topic of your choosing.

Sept. 5 – Preliminaries

Sept. 12 – Asian Studies in the 21st Century
Roundtable in the Pyle Center: 9:00-12:30, 2:00-5:30

Sept. 19 – Modern Nationalist Discourse

Sept. 26 – Economic Development


Oct. 3 – Historiographic Interlude


Oct. 10 – Gender History


Oct. 17 – Settler Colonialism

Oct. 24 – Empire & Spatiality


Oct. 31 – The Korean War


Nov. 7 – North Korea (1)


Nov. 14 – North Korea (2)


Nov. 21 – South Korea (1)


Nov. 28 – Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 5 – South Korea (2)


Dec. 12 – South Korea (3)


Dec. 19 – Final Project Due