

UW-Madison, Department of History

History 225: **Two Koreas**
Humanities 1101, TR 1:00-2:15

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Despite the rigid and durable division between the two countries, the histories of North and South Korea are inextricably connected. This course examines the politics, ideology, and culture of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea from 1945 to the present. We will pay close attention to unexpected similarities shared by the mutually antagonistic postcolonial nation-states, as well as striking ideological differences formed in the incipient cold-war context of the mid-twentieth century. One aim of this course is to provide a firm understanding of the ways in which people in both countries have experienced the numerous political, social, and cultural transformations of the past six-plus decades. The second aim is to foster an awareness of the close relationship between the two Koreas and key global developments and processes of the post-1945 era.

GRADING:

- (1) Class Participation: Class meetings will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Discussions will focus on our course readings, which I have selected to shed greater light on lecture topics. For this reason, it is essential that you read assigned readings before class **and** that you come to class ready to share your impressions and pose questions about them. In-class participation will make up 10% of the final grade.
- (2) Papers: I will assign three short papers (4-5 double-spaced pages, 12-point font). You may choose to write all three of them or you may choose to write only two of them. If you write three papers, then I will use the top two grades to calculate your final grade. If you write two papers, then the two grades you receive will go toward your final grade. Each paper grade will amount to 20% of your final grade. I will provide you with paper topics before the due dates. An A paper should contain the following elements:
 - a. A thesis statement
 - b. Clear organization, including 2-4 body sections

- c. Original and incisive analysis
- d. An absolute minimum of spelling and grammatical errors

Good writing requires practice, effort, and feedback. There's always room for improvement. Please visit the Writing Center if you want assistance in writing: <http://writing.wisc.edu/>. It is an excellent resource.

(3) Midterm and Final: Respectively, the midterm exam and final exam will constitute 20% and 30% of your final grade.

(4) Recap of Grading:

Class Participation: 10%
Short Papers: 20% + 20% = 40%
Midterm Exam: 20%
Final Exam: 30%

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Michael E. Robinson, *Korea's Twentieth Century Odyssey: A Short History* (Readings from this text will appear as "Odyssey" in the course schedule.)

The Michael Robinson text is available for purchase at the University Bookstore. All other readings are in the course reader, which is available at the Humanities Copy Center (1650 Humanities Building). Two sets of the course reader will also be available at College Library Reserves.

COURSE REGULATIONS:

- (a) Attendance is mandatory. Three unexcused absences will result in an F grade.
- (b) Plagiarism – the use of another person's words or ideas without citation – will not be tolerated in any written assignment. Please consult me or the Writing Center's guide for more details about what constitutes plagiarism: http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html
- (c) Late paper submissions (i.e., anything submitted after class had ended on the due date) will receive a 10-point deduction for each late day. Late papers must be signed, dated, and timed by the administrator at the History

Department front desk. Submit late papers in my mailbox on the fourth floor.

There is one exception. I will accept late papers electronically until midnight of the due date. Late papers submitted on the due date will receive a 5-point deduction. You will then need to submit a hard copy of your paper in my mailbox on the following day. Any late electronic submissions that arrive 12:01 a.m. or later will receive the full 10-point deduction.

(d) Please include the course number (History 600) in the subject line of all emails. I will do my best to respond to your emails quickly, but do understand that it may take some time for me to get back to you. Use common sense. If you write me at 11:30 p.m. on the night before an assignment is due, I may not get back to you until the next morning – if not later. In this sort of situation, you would be better off writing me a day (or three) in advance. Also, expect a slower turn-around time for emails written on weekends.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Thurs., 9/3: Introduction

I. Liberation and National Division

Tues., 9/8: The Politics of Division

Nym Wales and Kim San, *Song of Ariran: A Korean Communist in the Chinese Revolution*, pp. 41-131

Thurs., 9/10: Establishing Separate Nation-States

Odyssey, pp. 100-120

Agnes Davis Kim, *I Married a Korean*, pp. 207-216

H. K. Shin, *Remembering Korea 1950: A Boy Soldier's Story*, pp. 1-13

Tues., 9/15: The Korean War

Kim Dong Choon, "Forgotten War, Forgotten Massacres—The Korean War (1950-1953) as Licensed Mass Killings," *Journal of Genocide Research*, 6: 4 (2004), pp. 523-544

Yi Sobang, "I Survived Communist Seoul," pp. 1-32

Watch video clip at: <http://stillpresentpasts.org/film>

III. Postcolonial Nationalism in North and South

Thurs., 9/17: Juche Ideology

Kim Il Sung, "Let Us Embody the Revolutionary Spirit of Independence, Self-Sustenance, and Self-Defence More Thoroughly in All Fields of State Activity, pp. 111-124.

Kim Yong, *Long Road Home*, pp. 19-60

Tues., 9/22: Juche Ideology in Action

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

Thurs., 9/24: Modernization Ideology in South Korea

Park Chung Hee, *Our Nation's Path*, pp. 3-6

Choi In-hoon, "The Voice of the Governor General," in *The Voice of the Governor General and Other Stories of Modern Korea*, pp. 165-185

IV. The South Korean Politics and Economy

Tues., 9/29: The "Miracle on the Han"

R: *Odyssey*, pp. 121-146

Korea Development Institute, *Korea's Economy: Past and Present*, pp. 300-317

"South Korea's miracle," *The Economist* (March 4, 1989), pp. 1-4

Sources of Korean Tradition, vol. 2, pp. 400-411

Thurs., 10/1: Living Through the Developmental Era

Yun Heung-gil, "The Man Who Was Left as Nine Pairs of Shoes," in *Land of Exile*, pp. 145-175

Cho Se-hûi, "The Cost of Living for a Family of Ôngang Laborers," in *The Dwarf*, pp. 13-33

Tues., 10/6: Political Democratization

Hagen Koo. "The State, Minjung, and the Working Class in South Korea," in *State and Society in Contemporary Korea*, pp. 131-162

Pico Iyer, Ricardo Chavira, and Edwin M. Reingold, "South Korea: The Tide Keeps Rising," *Time* (April 14, 1986):
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,961106,00.html>

William R. Doerner, "Under Siege," *Time* (June 29, 1987):
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,964793-1,00.html>

Odyssey, pp. 167-181

FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Thurs., 10/8: After the Democratic Transition

In-Yong Rhee, "The Korean Election Shows a Shift in Media Power," *Nieman Reports* (Spring 2003), pp. 95-96

Anthony M. Townsend, "Seoul: Birth of a Broadband Metropolis." *Environment and Planning, Vol. 34*. (2007), pp. 396-413

Vanessa Hua, "South Korea: Everyone's a Journalist—The Story of OhmyNews."

Frontline:

http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/rough/2007/03/south_korea.html#

Watch video

Ronda Hauben, "Online Grassroots Journalism and Participatory Democracy in South Korea," in *Korea Yearbook: Vol. 1*, pp. 61-82.

V. Midterm Week

Tues., 10/13: Midterm Review

Thurs., 10/15: Midterm

VI. North Korean Economy and Politics

Tues., 10/20: Coping with Economic Crisis

R: *Odyssey*, pp. 146-166

Thurs., 10/22: Leadership and Succession

Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, pp. 394-433

Party History Research Institute, *History of Revolutionary Activities of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung*, pp. 3-19

Choe In Su, *Kim Jong Il: The People's Leader*, pp. 1-6, 33-37

SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS

VI. Gender in South Korea

Tues., 10/27: Gender and National Development

Chungmoo Choi, "Nationalism and Construction of Gender in Korea," in *Dangerous Women*, pp. 9-32

Seung-sook Moon, "Begetting the Nation: The Andocentric Discourse of National

History and Tradition in South Korea,” in *Dangerous Women*, pp. 33-66

Thurs., 10/29: Gender in Contemporary South Korea

Nancy Abelmann, “Women, Mobility, and Desire: Narrating Class and Gender in South Korea,” in *Under Construction*, pp. 25-53

Tues., 11/3: Gender and (Geo-)politics

Saundra Pollock Sturdevant & Brenda Stoltzfus, *Let the Good Times Roll*, pp. 166-239

VII. Unification and North Korea Relations

Thurs., 11/5: The Unification Issue

Roy Richard Grinker, *Korea and Its Futures*, pp. 19-48

Korean Affairs Institute correspondences, 1-20

Tues., 11/10: North Korea Relations

Victor D. Cha & David C. Kang, *Nuclear North Korea: A Debate on Engagement Strategies*, pp. 13-69

VIII. Migration

Thurs., 11/12: The Korean Diaspora

Charles K. Armstrong, *The Koreas*, pp. 89-130

Tues., 11/17: Migrants in South Korea

Kim Hyun Mee, “The State and Women: Diverging Hopes in the Making of ‘Multicultural Families’ in Contemporary Korea.” *Korea Journal*, Vol. 47: 4 (Winter 2007), pp. 100-122

Norimitsu Onishi, "Korean Men Use Brokers to Find Brides in Vietnam," *The New York Times* (February 22, 2007):
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/22/world/asia/22brides.html>

Norimitsu Onishi, "Wed to Strangers, Vietnamese Wives Build Korean Lives," *The New York Times* (March 30, 2008):
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/30/world/asia/30brides.html>

Thurs., 11/19: Koreans in Kazakhstan

Documentary: *Koryo Saram: The Unreliable People* (dirs. Y. David Chung and Matt Dibble, 2007)

THIRD PAPER DUE IN CLASS

IX. Anti-American and Anti-Japanese Sentiments

Tues., 11/24: Anti-Americanism

Sook-Jong Lee, "The Rise of Korean Youth as a Political Force: Implications for the U.S.-Korea Alliance," *Brookings Northeast Asia Survey 2003-04*, pp. 15-30

Charles K. Armstrong, "South Korea and the U.S. 60 Years On," *OhmyNews International* (May 31, 2004):
http://english.ohmynews.com/articleview/article_view.asp?menu=c10400&no=229191&rel_no=1

NPR interview with Christine Ahn, "Korea's Beef With U.S. Is About More Than Exports," (June 13, 2008):
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91461356>
Read short article and listen to interview

Tues., 12/1: South Korea and Japan

Cho Han Hae-joang, "Beyond the FIFA's World Cup: an ethnography of the 'local' in South Korea around the 2002 World Cup," *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 5:1 (April 2004), pp. 8-26.

Ogasawara Hiroki, "Back to the pitch, reclaim the game': is that only what matters? An outer national reading of the World Cup," *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* 5:1 (April 2004), pp. 27-41.

Anthony Faiola, "Japanese Women Catch the 'Korean Wave'," *The Washington Post* (August 31, 2006):
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/08/30/AR2006083002985.html>

Norimitsu Onishi, "Ugly Images of Asian Rivals Become Best Sellers in Japan," *The New York Times* (November 19, 2005):
<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/19/international/asia/19comics.html>

X. In Closing

Tues., 12/8: Everyday Life in North Korea

Documentary: *A State of Mind* (dir. Daniel Gordon, 2003)

Thurs., 12/10: Closing Thoughts

Odyssey, pp. 182-199

Chang Kyung-Sup, "The End of Developmental Citizenship?," *Economic and Political Weekly* (Dec. 15, 2007), pp. 67-72

Blaine Harden, "Opening Their Wallets, Emptying Their Savings," *The Washington Post* (July 30, 2009):
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/07/29/AR2009072903191.html>

Tues, 12/15: Final Exam Review

Fri., 12/18: FINAL EXAM, 10:05 a.m. -12:05 p.m.