

History 201: The Historian's Craft – The Korean War

Lectures: Tues. & Thurs., 11:00-12:15, Humanities 1221

Instructor: Charles Kim ☐

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:00 and by appt.

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Section 1: Wed., 9:55-10:45, Social Science 6224

Section 2: Wed., 12:05-12:55, Humanities 2631

Section 3: Wed., 2:25-3:15, Social Science 6224

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Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the discipline of history with a focus on finding and analyzing primary sources, as well as on understanding historiography (the study of the differing ways in which historians have interpreted a key event, period, or phenomenon of the past). Since historical context is such an important part of the “historian’s craft,” you will learn these skills through consideration of the Korean War. Americans often misunderstand this event, which is a foundational one for North Koreans and South Koreans. In particular, this course will explore the Korean War from the perspectives of the global Cold War, and the two Koreas. This course fulfills the Comm-B requirement.

Course Objectives:

- 1) Learn how to engage in original historical research.
- 2) Learn about the ways in which the study of history has relevance for the present by exploring the Korean War.
- 3) Learn how to identify a scholarly argument and assess its historiographical significance.

- 4) Learn how to convey your research findings more effectively to others, through writing, discussion, and formal presentations.

Required Texts:

- Course Packet, L&S Copy Center, 6120 Social Science Building
- Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 6th or 7th ed. (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010/2012)

Course Requirements:

- 1) Attendance & class participation (lectures & disc. section): 15%
- 2) Homework: (7 x 2% =) 14%
- 3) Analysis Papers (2-3 pages each): (8% + 8% + 15% =) 31%
- 4) Oral Presentations (5 min. each): (2 x 5% =) 10%
- 5) Annotated Bibliography: 10%
- 6) Research Paper (6-8 pages): 20%

Further Information:

- 1) Read this syllabus carefully. Consider it a contract between yourself, the TA, and the instructor.
- 2) Attend every lecture and discussion section, come prepared, and participate regularly. Missing lectures and/or discussion sections, lack of preparation, minimal participation, and frequent late arrivals and early departures will adversely affect your attendance and participation grade.
- 3) The weekend is the best time to start preparing for the upcoming week.
- 4) The instructor may administer occasional quizzes to make sure that students are coming prepared. The results of quizzes will be incorporated into the attendance-participation score.
- 5) Over the course of the semester, you will have a total of five grace days at your disposal. You may apply your grace days to analysis papers, the annotated bibliography, and the research paper. (However, you won't be able to use them for homework assignments or oral presentations.)
- 6) Submit homework assignments in lecture. Submit analysis papers and any scanned materials as hard copies by 4 p.m. of the assigned day in the TA's mailbox.
- 7) There are 8 homework assignments in this syllabus. Your top 7 assignments will go toward your final grade. You have a choice of submitting either 7 or 8 homework assignments.

- 8) There are 5 analysis papers. Your top 3 will go toward your final grade. Your top analysis paper will count for 15% of your final grade; the remaining two will count for 8% each. You may submit 3, 4, or 5 analysis papers.
- 9) Suggestion: There will be a lot of handouts for this class. It is a good idea to use a three-ring binder to keep everything together, including this syllabus.

Course Regulations:

- 1) After you have exhausted your grace days, written assignments that are submitted after the due date will receive a ten-point deduction for each late day.
- 2) Laptops and tablets may not be used during lectures and discussion sections. In our Tuesday-Thursday class sessions, you may use a laptop or tablet only during small-group exercises – and only to refer to readings. Beyond that specific purpose, I will ask you to put your laptops and tablets away before I start my lectures.

We are willing to give permission to those individual students for whom taking notes on a computer offers a sizable advantage, but you need to come talk to us about this.

Finally, please turn off and put away your smart phones at all times.

- 3) Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any assignment for this course. It's perfectly fine to draw on academic work done by others, as long as you cite their work. However, it's unacceptable to use other people's work, while giving the impression that it is your own original work. For more on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, see the Writing Center's "Writer's Handbook": <http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QuotingSources.html>.

Academic Accommodations for Students

Please let us know at the start of the semester if you have a need for an accommodation in his course. If you have any questions about this or require any assistance, feel free to contact me or the McBurney Disability Resource Center.

A Note on the Syllabus

I plan on sticking to the contents of this syllabus, but I sometimes make changes on the fly in order to improve the learning experience. I will do my best to make adjustments in as democratic a manner as possible, and to let you know ahead of time.

Course Schedule:

Week 1

9/2 T – Preliminaries (lecture)

9/3 W – Preliminaries (discussion)

9/4 R – A Short History of History

- Read this syllabus carefully and come to lecture with any questions you might have.
- John Arnold, *History: A Very Short Introduction* (London: Oxford University Press, 2000), 1-57 (Course Reader, 1-31)
- Sam Wineburg, “Crazy for History,” *The Journal of American History* 90:4 (March 2004): 1401-1414 (CR 32-46)
- **Homework #1 due in class.** The evolution of history (as a discipline). Access homework assignments on Learn@UW (under “Content”). Complete, print out, and bring to class.

Week 2

9/9 T – Historiography of the Korean War: Overview

- The Korean War (documentary). Access on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLYonQHJgU0>
- Dennis Merrill and Thomas G. Paterson, eds., *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations, Volume II: Since 1914* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005), 263-264, 274-287. (CR 47-56) Read the brief introduction of essays, the Zubov-Pleashakov excerpt, and the Christensen excerpt.
- Rampolla, “Working with Sources,” chapter 2
- **Homework #2 due in class.** Factors behind the Korean War.

9/10 W – Historiography of the Korean War: The Civil War Dimension

- Allan Millett, “Introduction to the Korean War,” *The Journal of Military History* 65:4 (October 2001): 921-935 – Access on America: History and Life database.

9/11 R – Historiography of the Korean War: Civil-International Synthesis

- Cho Chŏngnae, “Land of Exile,” in *Land of Exile: Contemporary Korean Fiction* Armonk, NY: ME Sharpe, 2007), 176-214 (CR 57-78)
- Dennis Merrill and Thomas G. Paterson, eds., *Major Problems in American Foreign Relations, Volume II: Since 1914* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005), 264-274 (CR 79-84)
- Heonik Kwon, “The Korean War Mass Graves,” *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, August 1, 2008. Access at <http://www.japanfocus.org/-Heonik-Kwon/2847>

Week 3

9/16 T – Historical Interpretation (1)

- Kathryn Weathersby, “To Attack, or Not to Attack? Stalin, Kim Il Sung, and the Prelude to War,” *Cold War International History Project Bulletin* 5 (Spring 1995): 1-9 (CR 85-93)
- Kathryn Weathersby, “New Russian Documents on the Korean War,” *Cold War International History Project Bulletin* 6/7 (Winter 1995/1996): 30-40 (CR 94-105)
- Bruce Cumings and Kathryn Weathersby, “An Exchange on Korean War Origins,” *Cold War International History Project Bulletin* 6/7 (Winter 1995/1996): 120-122.
- Reread Rampolla, 2b-1, 2b-2
- **Homework #3 due in class.** Assessing historical arguments.

9/17 W – Historical Interpretation (2)

- Jules R. Benjamin, *A Student's Guide to History*, 12th ed. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2013), 81-97 (CR 109-119)
- Use the CWIHP Digital Archive to locate a primary source document that sheds light on the question of whether the Korean War was a civil war or an international war. Be sure to use a document that we did not read for the previous lecture. Examine the document with respect to the Weathersby-Cuming debate. Print it out and bring to section: <http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collection/134/korean-war-origins-1945-1950>

9/18 R – Propaganda Materials as Primary Source

- Susan A. Brewer, *Why America Fights* (Oxford, 2009), 141-178 (CR 120-139)
- “Big Picture: Korea Today” (ca. 1955-1960, 28 min.) – Access on [Moving Image Archive](#)
- Korean War Propaganda Posters:
 - <http://digitalpostercollection.com/propaganda/1950-1953-korean-war/usa/wanted-more-men-like-mike-u-s-army/>
 - <http://digitalpostercollection.com/propaganda/1950-1953-korean-war/usa/wilco-u-s-army/>
 - <http://digitalpostercollection.com/propaganda/1950-1953-korean-war/usa/bombs-away-u-s-air-force/>
 - <http://digitalpostercollection.com/propaganda/1950-1953-korean-war/usa/they-depend-on-you-1953-u-s-army-nurse-corps/>
 - <http://digitalpostercollection.com/propaganda/1950-1953-korean-war/usa/proud-parents-1956-womens-army-corps-u-s-army/>
- **Homework #4 due in class.** Analyzing propaganda.

Week 4

9/22 M – Analysis Paper #1 due in TA’s mailbox by 4 p.m. The History Dept. mailboxes are located one floor above the department office (Humanities 3211). An easy way to get to them is to use the elevator just outside the entrance of the office – or to ask the department receptionist. The TA’s mailbox is 4029.

Based on the primary and secondary sources that you have read, take a position on the historiographical issue of whether the Korean War was a civil war or an international war.

9/23 T – Magazines as Primary Source (1)

- Carolyn Kitch, *Pages from the Past: History and Memory in American Magazines* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005), 13-37 (CR 140-158)
- *Time* magazine feature, Jan. 2, 1950 (Available on Learn@UW)

9/24 W – Magazines as Primary Source (2)

- Rampolla, chapter 4
- Come to section with a good idea of final project topics that interest you.

9/25 R – Magazines as Primary Source (3)

- Rampolla, 3-a
- Elaine Tyler May, *Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold Era* (Basic Books, 1988), 3-36 (CR 159-193)
- **Homework #5 due in class.** Identifying historical arguments.

Week 5

9/29 M – **Analysis Paper #2 due in TA's mailbox by 4 p.m..**

- Analyze a feature-length story about the Korean War or a related topic selected from a magazine. Pay close attention to the content and visual images from the story and surrounding pages. Submit with scans of your sources.

9/30 T – Newspapers as Primary Source (1)

- Steven Casey, "Casualty Reporting and Domestic Support for War: The U.S. Experience during the Korean War," in *The Korean War at Sixty* (New York: Routledge, 2012), 129-154 (CR 194-207)
- *New York Times* articles, July 1950
- Reginald Thompson, *Cry Korea: The Korean War – A Reporter's Notebook* (London: Reportage Press, 2009), 9-13, 85, 238-244 (CR 208-217)

10/1 W – On Your Own Research

- Rampolla, 5a-5b
- Scheduling of oral presentations – if you don't come, then the TA will schedule the date of your presentation.

10/2 R – Newspapers as Primary Source (2)

- Denice Corinne Walker, "Form and Ideology: Human Interest Journalism and the U.S. Print Media's Coverage of U.S. Military Deaths in the Iraq War, 2003-2007," Ph.D. dissertation, University

of Colorado at Boulder, 2010, chapter 3. [Access on ProQuest Dissertations & Theses database.](#)

- **Homework #6 due in class.**

Week 6

10/6 M – **Analysis Paper #3 due in TA’s mailbox by 4 p.m.**

- Based on what you know about American media coverage of the war, analyze two newspaper articles that you have selected from your own research. Submit with scans of your sources.

10/7 T – Photographs as Primary Source

- James Curtis, “Making Sense of Documentary Photography,” <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/mse/photos/photos.pdf>
- Graham Harrison, “The Life and Times of Albert Hardy, 1913-1995, *Photo Histories* (2008): <http://www.photohistories.com/Photo-Histories/50/the-life-and-times-of-albert-hardy-1913-1995>
- **Homework #7** – Analyze Bert Hardy photos on gettyimages.com: <http://www.gettyimages.com/Search/AdvancedSearch.aspx>

10/8 W – Giving an Effective Oral Presentation

10/9 R – Historical Society Tutorial with Simone Munson.

- Meet in lobby of the Wisconsin Historical Society Building at 11 a.m.

Week 7

10/13 M – **Analysis Paper #4 due in TA’s mailbox by 4 p.m.**

- Analysis of two Korean War photographs. Submit with scans of photos.

10/14 T – Antiwar Views (1)

- I.F. Stone, *The Hidden History of the Korean War, 1950-1951*, xi-xxii, 1-60 (CR 217-253)

10/15 W – Oral Presentations

10/16 R – Comic Books (Antiwar Views cont.)

- Harvey Kurtzman, *Corpse on the Imjin and Other Stories* (Fantagraphics Books, 2012), excerpts (CR 254-280)

Week 8

10/21 T – Film as Primary Source (1)

- *Pork Chop Hill* (dir. Lewis Milestone, 1959) – Screening in class

10/22 W – Oral Presentations

10/23 R – Film as Primary Source (2)

- Tom Gunning, “Making Sense of Films,” <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/mse/film/film.pdf>
- Henry King et al., *The Hollywood Professionals, Volume Two* (London: Tantivy Press, 1974), 69-106 (CR 281-302)
- Joseph R. Millichap, *Lewis Milestone* (Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1981), 178-180 (CR 303-304)

Week 9

10/28 T – Film as Primary Source (3)/Preparing Your Annotated Bibliography

- “Interview: Richard Slotkin Revisits America’s ‘Forgotten’ War, Korea, on Film,” interview by Farisa Khalid, May 1, 2013: <http://asiasociety.org/blog/asia/interview-richard-slotkin-revisits-americas-forgotten-war-korea-film>
- Katherine Kinney, “Cold Wars: Black Soldiers in Liberal Hollywood,” *War Literature & the Arts: An International Journal of the Humanities* (2000), 101-121. Access on FTLI database.
- Geoffrey A. White, “Acknowledging Experience: *Pork Chop Hill* and the Geography of the Korean War,” *War Literature & the Arts: An International Journal of the Humanities* (2011), CR 305-325
- Rampolla, 3-b
- **Homework #8 due in class.**

10/29 W – Remaining Oral Presentations/Film as Primary Source (4)

- Film reviews of *Pork Chop Hill* – available on Learn@UW

10/30 R – No lecture – Work on group project

Week 10

11/4 T – Antiwar Views (2)

- Benjamin T. Harrison, “Roots of the Anti-Vietnam War Movement,” in *The United States and the Vietnam War: Significant Scholarly Articles* (New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 2000), 23-35 (CR 326-334)
- Charles Chatfield, *The American Peace Movement: Ideals and Activism* (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1992), 117-131 (CR 335-344)

11/5 W – Narrating Your Study and Change vs. Continuity

11/6 R – Picking a Good Topic: Developing Your Group’s Focus

Week 11

11/10 M – **Analysis paper #5 due in TA’s mailbox by 4 p.m.**

11/11 T – 11/12 W – 11/13 R

No lectures or discussion sections:

Mandatory group consultations with instructor or TA – the better prepared you are for the meeting, the more helpful we can be.

Week 12

11/18 T – Originality/Plagiarism

- **Annotated Bibliographies due in lecture**
- Rampolla, chapter 6

11/19 W – Final Project Prep

11/20 R – Good Writing/Documentation

- Patricia Nelson Limerick, “Dancing with Professors: The Trouble with Academic Prose.” Access at <http://www.cs.tufts.edu/~nr/cs257/archive/patricia-limerick/dancing.htm>
- Rampolla, 5f, chapter 7

Week 13

11/24 – **First draft of final paper due as hard copy in TA’s mailbox by 4 p.m.**

11/25 T – 11/26 W

No lectures or discussion sections:

Optional group consultations with instructor and/or TA during first part of week.

11/27 R – Thanksgiving Day

Week 14

12/2 T – STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

12/3 W – no sections

12/4 R – STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Week 15

12/9 T – STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

12/10 W – no sections

12/11 R – STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

12/18 – Final paper due as hard copy in TA’s mailbox by 4 p.m.