

## HIST 335: Korean History, 1945-present

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:45 @ Van Hise 254  
Instructor: Dr. Charles Kim, History Department, UW-Madison  
Office: Humanities 4122  
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### Course Description:

Ever since the establishment of two Korean nation-states after the end of World War II, North Korea and South Korea have been part and parcel of key trends and phenomena in East Asia and the world. As such, the post-1945 history of Korea has been shot through with transformations, dynamism, conflicts, triumphs, and the unexpected. This course explores the society, culture, and politics of the two Koreas. Key topics include national division and the Korean War, the Cold War, memory, and everyday life.



2010 North Korean Stamp commemorating the participation of the Chinese People Volunteer's Army in the Korean War.



2010 South Korean stamp commemorating *Taegŭkki hwinallimyŏ* (*Tae Guk Gi: The Brotherhood of War*), a 2004 nationalist film about the war.

### Course Objectives:

- 1) Provide an in-depth understanding of post-1945 Korean history as part of global history.
- 2) Explore the ways in which the past shapes the present, in the context of modern Korea.
- 3) Improve your ability to analyze primary sources.
- 4) Improve your ability to identify and grasp the significance of arguments in a secondary source.
- 5) Provide a forum to engage in informed intellectual discussions.
- 6) Provide the space for you to articulate your thoughts and observations in clear and well-organized writing.

### Required Texts:

- All readings, films, and other course materials will be available electronically on Canvas: <https://learnuw.wisc.edu>.

### Course Requirements:

- 1) Participation: 15%
- 2) Postings: 14% (= 7 x 2%; 250-500 words each). *For more on Postings, see Item 5 in Course Guidelines.*
- 3) Student Report (10-min. group report submitted as recording on Canvas): 10%
- 4) Take-home midterm (due October 9; 4-5 double-spaced pages): 16%
- 5) Essay (due November 7; 7-8 double-spaced pages): 25%
- 6) Final assignment (due December 15; 5-6 pages): 20%

### Grading Scheme:

92-100%	A	87-91.9%	AB	82-86.9%	B
77-81.9%	BC	70-76.9%	C	60-69.9%	D

### Course Guidelines:

- 1) Keep this syllabus readily available either as a hard copy or in an electronic format (syllabus will be available on Canvas). My expectations for you, as well as the due dates and times for all reading, viewing, and written assignments, are on this document. While I will remind you of these assignments in class and by email, you're responsible for referring to this document regularly and for knowing what to do each week for this course.
- 2) Attend every meeting, come prepared, and participate regularly. Missing class, frequent late arrivals/early departures, insufficient preparation, and minimal participation departures will adversely affect your ability to engage in course topics effectivity—and will ultimately affect your course grade.
- 3) Late submissions will receive a deduction of half a letter grade for each late day.
- 4) I will regularly send course announcements, changes to the syllabus, and useful links. You are responsible for checking your email account daily, and for reading **all** course-related

emails. If you have any questions about them, ask me in class or by email

- 5) Postings are due on Canvas by 5 p.m. CST on most Monday evenings this semester. Be sure to bring an electronic or hard copy of your posting to class the next day for in-class discussion. *Note: There are 10 possible postings over the course of the semester. Your 3 lowest posting scores will be dropped in the calculating of your grade for this category. To put it differently, your highest 7 homework scores will go toward your final grade in the class. (Tip: If a posting is due on the same day your student report is due, you may certainly skip your posting for that week.)*
- 6) Laptops, tablets, or smartphones may be used only to refer to course readings and notes, and to take notes. If you appear to be off task, then I or the course proctor will check in to see what you are doing.
- 7) Bring your postings and the assigned reading (or notes for the assigned film) to class meetings.
- 8) Plagiarism – the use of another person’s words or ideas without citation – will not be tolerated in any assignment for this course. For more on how to avoid plagiarism, see the statement on “Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism” on the Council of Writing Program Administrators website: [wpacouncil.org/positions/WPAplagiarism.pdf](http://wpacouncil.org/positions/WPAplagiarism.pdf).

**Academic Accommodations for Students:**

Please let me 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, don’t hesitate to contact me or the McBurney Disability Resource Center.

**Highly Recommended Resource:**

**The History Lab** is a resource center where experts (PhD students) will assist you with your history papers. No matter your stage in the writing process—choosing a topic, conducting research, composing a thesis, outlining your argument, revising your drafts—the History Lab staff is here, along with your professors and teaching assistants, to help you sharpen your skills and become a more successful writer. Sign up for a one-on-one consultation online: <http://go.wisc.edu/hlab>.

**Course Schedule:**

**UNIT 1: Liberation, National Division & the Korean War**

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
R 9/7	Course Introduction	
M 9/11		<b>^ Posting 1 due on Canvas by 5 pm CST</b>

T 9/12	Postcolonial Aspirations	<p>^ Suzy KIM, "Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the North Korean Revolution, 1945-1950," <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i> 52 (2010): 742-767.</p> <p>^ Anna Louise STRONG, "In the Soviet Zone," in <i>North Korea: First Eye-Witness Report</i>.</p> <p>^ Walter CHOINSKI, Letters dated 7 April 1946 and 24 April 1946. (Wisconsin State Historical Society).</p> <p>^ "Why Women Had Better Sex Under Socialism," <i>New York Times</i>, August 12, 2017</p>
R 9/14	Why Division, Why War?	<p>^ Robert J. MCMAHON, <i>The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction</i> (London: Oxford University Press, 2003), 1-15.</p> <p>^ Keith PRATT, <i>Everlasting Flower: A History of Korea</i> (London: Reaktion, 2006), 241-257.</p> <p>^ General Headquarters Far East Command, various Korean War propaganda leaflets. (Columbia University Rare Book and Manuscript Library).</p> <p>^ Chinese propaganda posters from the Korean War period</p>
M 9/18		^ <b>Posting 2 due on Canvas by 5 pm CST</b>
T 9/19	Experiences of Ordinary People	<p>^ Keith PRATT, <i>Everlasting Flower: A History of Korea</i> (London: Reaktion, 2006), 257-263.</p> <p>^ Heonik KWON, "Korean War Traumas," <i>Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus</i> 8 (September 2010).</p> <p>^ <u>Documentary</u>: <i>Grandmother's Flower (Halmae kkot</i>, dir. MOON Jeong-hyun, 2007)</p>
R 9/21	Korea/Asia in the Cold War	<p>^ Robert J. MCMAHON, <i>The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction</i>, 35-55.</p> <p>^ Hajimu MASUDA, "The Cold War as Social Mechanism: Toward an Analysis of Cold War Asia, not of the Cold War in Asia," <i>IAS Newsletter</i> 72 (October 2015).</p> <p>^ Heonik KWON, "Healing the Wounds of War: New Ancestral Shrines in Korea," <i>Asia Pacific Journal: Japan Focus</i> 7 (June 2009).</p>
M 9/25		<p>^ <b>Posting 3 due on Canvas by 5 pm CST</b></p> <p>^ <b>Student Reports (for students who are signed up for 9/26) are due on Canvas by 11 pm CST</b></p>
T 9/26	Official Memories of the War	<p>^ Tessa MORRIS-SUZUKI, "Remembering the Unfinished Conflict: Museums and the Contested Memory of the Korean War," <i>Asia-Pacific Journal</i> 29 (2009).</p> <p>^ Read one of the student report readings listed below.</p>

		<p><b>^ Student Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>South Korea</u>: Seunghei Clara HONG, “Silenced in Memoriam: Consuming Memory at the Nogunri Peace Park,” <i>Cross Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review</i> 14 (March 2015)</li> <li>• <u>United States</u>: Daniel Y. KIM. “Nationalist Technologies of Cultural Memory and the Korean War,” <i>Cross Currents</i> 14 (March 2015)</li> <li>• <u>North Korea</u>: Suzy KIM, “Specters of War in Pyongyang: The Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum in North Korea,” <i>Cross Currents</i> 14</li> </ul>
R 9/28	No class	Work on take-home midterm
F 9/29		<b>^ Take-home midterm due by 8 pm CST</b>

## UNIT 2: South Korean Ideology & Protest

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
M 10/2		<b>^ Posting 4 due on Canvas by 6 pm EST</b>
T 10/3	American Nationalist Ideology	<p>^ John Fousek, <i>To Lead the Free World: American Nationalism and the Cultural Roots of the Cold War</i> (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2000), 1-15, 91-102, 187-191.</p> <p>^ Truman Doctrine</p> <p>^ Propaganda Reel: “Korea Today” (1948)</p> <p>^ “Revolt in Korea,” <i>LIFE</i>, November 15, 1948.</p>
W 10/5		<b>^ Student Reports (for students who are signed up for 10/5) are due on Canvas by 11 pm CST</b>
R 10/5	South Korean Ideology (1): The “Student Vanguard” & Beyond	<p>^ Charles Kim, <i>Youth for Nation: Culture and Protest in Cold War South Korea</i> (Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2017), 1-16, 75-78, 106-108, 144-147 and 157-175.</p> <p>^ Watch clips from <i>Nameless Stars</i> and <i>Silmido</i> (see Canvas for specifics)</p> <p><b>^ Student Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Nameless Stars</i> (<i>Irŭm ōmnŭn pyŏldŭl</i>, dir. KIM Kangyun, 1959) and “Korean Demonstrations Restore Korean Democracy!,” <i>Korea in Review</i> (1960).</li> <li>• <i>Silmido</i> (<i>Silmido</i>, dir. Woo-suk KANG, 2003)</li> </ul>
M 10/9		<p><b>^ No posting this week.</b></p> <p><b>^ Student Reports (for students who are signed up for 10/10) are due on Canvas by 11 pm CST</b></p>

T 10/10	South Korean Ideology (2): "Modernization of the Fatherland"	<p>^ Charles Kim, <i>Youth for Nation</i>, 43-48, 61-74, 176-193, 205-214.</p> <p>^ Watch clips from <i>The Coachman</i> and <i>The Marines Who Never Returned</i> (see Canvas for specifics)</p> <p>^ <u>Optional</u>: Charles K. ARMSTRONG, <i>The Koreas</i> (London: Routledge, 2007, 21-57).</p> <p>^ <b>Student Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Coachman</i> (Mabu, dir. KANG Dae-jin, 1961)</li> <li>• <i>The Marines Who Never Returned</i> (Toraojiannün haebyöng, dir. LEE Man-hee, 1963)</li> </ul>
R 10/12	The Kwangju (Gwangju) Uprising & the Democracy Movement	<p>^ Namhee Lee, <i>Making of Minjung: Democracy and the Politics of Representation in South Korea</i> (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2007), 23-64.</p> <p>^ Optional: Kyung Moon HWANG, <i>A History of Korea</i> (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2016), 226-234.</p>
M 10/16		<p>^ <b>Posting 5 due on Canvas by 5 pm CST</b></p> <p>^ <b>Student Reports (for students who are signed up for 10/17) are due on Canvas by 11 pm CST</b></p>
T 10/17	Violence, Solidarity & Democracy	<p>^ Charles R. KIM and Jungwon KIM, "Introduction," in <i>Beyond Death: The Politics of Suicide and Martyrdom in Korea</i> (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, forthcoming), 8-20.</p> <p>^ Read one of the two readings listed below.</p> <p>^ <b>Student Reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHEON Junghwan, "Untimely Death and Martyrdom after May 1980: Suicide in the South Korean Democracy Movement Seen Through the Case of Pak Sünghüi," in <i>Beyond Death</i></li> <li>• SEO Youngchae, "The Birth of an Ethical Subject: The 1980s and South Korean Literature," in <i>Beyond Death</i>.</li> </ul>
R 10/19	Remembering the Authoritarian Era (1): <i>Ode To My Father</i>	<p>^ <i>Ode To My Father</i> (<i>Kukche sijang</i>, dir. Je-kyoon YOUN, 2014)</p> <p>^ Seungsook MOON, "The Cultural Politics of Remembering Park Chung Hee," <i>The Asia-Pacific Journal</i> 19 (May 2009), 1-10.</p> <p>^ "'Ode To My Father' stirs the box office and debate in South Korea," <i>Los Angeles Times</i>, January 31, 2015.</p>
M 10/23		^ <b>Posting 6 due on Canvas by 5 pm CST</b>
T 10/24	Remembering the Authoritarian Era (2): <i>The Attorney</i>	<p>^ <i>The Attorney</i> (<i>Pyönhoin</i>, dir. Woo-seok YANG, 2013)</p> <p>^ Seungsook MOON, "The Cultural Politics of Remembering Park Chung Hee," 11-30.</p> <p>^ "Interview: YANG Woo-seok, Director of THE ATTORNEY,"</p>

R 10/26	Postdevelopmental Triumphalism	^ Hong KAL, "The Cheonggye Stream Restoration and the Remaking of Seoul," <i>Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus</i> 9 (July 2011).
M 10/30		^ <b>Posting 7 due on Canvas by 5 pm CST</b>
T 10/31	Culture & Protest Today	^ Kevin GRAY, "The Political Cultures of South Korea," <i>New Left Review</i> (January-February 2013): 85-101. ^ Nan KIM, "Candlelight and the Yellow Ribbon: Catalyzing Re-Democratization in South Korea," <i>Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus</i> 15 (July 2017). ^ <u>Video clips</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Foreign Correspondents – Candlelight Protests in Korea"</li> <li>• "South Korean People's June 1987 Struggle"</li> </ul>
R 11/2	No Class	Work on essay
T 11/7	No Class	<b>Essay due by 5 pm CST on Canvas</b>

### UNIT 3: North Korea – Ideology & Society

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS
R 11/9	North Korea as Foreign Policy Issue (1): Background	^ Bruce CUMINGS, "A Murderous History of Korea," <i>London Review of Books</i> (May 2017). ^ "How Trump's Predecessors Dealt With the North Korean Threat," <i>New York Times</i> , August 17, 2017. ^ Leon V. Sigal, "Bad News," <i>38north.org</i> (August 2017). ^ Additional reading on South Korean Sunshine Policy TBD. ^ North Korean painting depicting <i>Paduk</i> (Game of Go) match.
M 11/13		^ <b>No posting this week</b> ^ <b>Student Reports (for students who are signed up for 11/14) are due on Canvas by midnight EST</b>
T 11/14	North Korea as Foreign Policy Issue (2): Present Contours	^ John DELURY, "The China Factor," <i>38north.org</i> (October 2016). ^ Read one of the articles listed below. ^ <b>Student Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• China: reading TBD</li> <li>• South Korea: reading TBD</li> <li>• United States: reading TBD</li> </ul>
R 11/16	Race Like the <i>Chollima</i> : Postwar Recovery	^ Charles K. ARMSTRONG, <i>The Koreas</i> , 57-69. ^ Cheehyung Harrison KIM, "North Korea's Vinalon City: Industrialism as Socialist Everyday Life," <i>positions: asia critique</i> 22 (Fall 2014): 809-836.

		^ John SWANSBURG, "The Self-Made Man: The Story of America's most pliable, pernicious, irrepressible myth." <i>Slate</i> , 29 (September 2014).
M 11/20		^ <b>Posting 8 due on Canvas by 6 pm EST</b>
T 11/21	The Institutionalization of <i>Juche</i> Ideology	^ Charles K. ARMSTRONG, 70-79. ^ Cheehyung Harrison KIM, "Total, Thus Broken: <i>chuch'e sasang</i> and North Korea's Terrain of Subjectivity," <i>Journal of Korean Studies</i> 17 (2012), 81-91. ^ KIM Pukhyang, "The Son," in <i>Modern Fiction: An Anthology</i> (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005), 195-214.
R 11/23	No Class: Thanksgiving	
M 11/27		^ <b>Posting 9 due on Canvas by 5 pm CST</b>
T 11/28	The "Arduous March" & Beyond	^ Charles K. ARMSTRONG, 79-88. ^ Bandi, <i>The Accusation</i> (New York: Grove Atlantic, 2017), vii, 1-34, 229-245. ^ "NK People Speak"
R 11/30	North Korea Today	^ Ruediger Frank, "Consumerism in North Korea: The Kwangbok Area Shopping Center," <i>38north.org</i> (April 2017). ^ Additional reading TBD. ^ <u>View</u> : "EverydayDPRK" Instagram page
M 12/4		^ <b>Posting 10 due on Canvas by 5 pm CST</b>
T 12/5	Understanding North Korea, Understanding Self	^ Sonia RYANG, "Introduction," in <i>North Korea: Toward a Better Understanding</i> (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2009), 1-16. ^ Andre SCHMID, "Is a History of North Korea without Kim Il-Sung Possible?," public talk at the Library of Congress, April 2017. ^ Minsoo KANG, "Super Market," <i>Azalea: Journal of Korean Literature &amp; Culture</i> 7 (2014): 123-141.
R 12/7	North Korean Romcom	^ <u>Film</u> : <i>Comrade Kim Goes Flying</i> (dirs. Bonner, Nicholas and Anja Daelemans, 2012) ^ <u>Video Clips</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "BBC on Comrade Kim Goes Flying"</li> <li>• "Koryo Group 'Comrade Kim Goes Flying'"</li> </ul>
T 12/19		<b>Final assignment due on Canvas by midnight</b>