

UW-Madison
History Department

Hist 335: **Korean History, 1945 to present**

Instructor: Dr. Charles Kim
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Lectures: TR 11:00-12:15, Education Science 304

Film Screenings: F 2:30-4:30, Humanities 1217

Just five years after the end of World War II, another war erupted in what was then an obscure backwater in Northeast Asia. Known as the Korean War, this devastating conflict involved twenty-one countries and resulted in nearly 3.5 million civilian and military deaths. A cease-fire agreement brought an end to combat in 1953, but the primary combatants technically remain in a state of war today – a full sixty years later. Although sometimes referred to by Americans as the “forgotten war,” the Korean War is far from forgotten in North Korea and South Korea. In fact, the foundational event was sewn tightly – and permanently – into the fabric of the two Koreas. This course explores the impact of the Korean War on North and South by paying close attention to the topics of cold war ideologies, political activism, historical memory, and contemporary North-South relations. The objectives of this course are:

- 1) to see the importance of considering multiple perspectives on a key event in modern history.
- 2) to think about the ways in which the past shapes the present.
- 3) to learn how to find and analyze primary sources.
- 4) to take part in open and intelligent discussions both in class and online.
- 5) to write a historical research paper.

Required Texts:

Bruce Cumings, *The Korean War: A History* (New York: Modern Library, 2010)

Kim Yong, *Long Road Home: Testimony of a North Korean Camp Survivor* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009)

Course Reader, available at the Humanities Copy Center (1650 Humanities Building)

Grading:

- (1) Attendance and Participation: Regular attendance, close readings of assigned materials, and consistent classroom participation are expected from all students. Attendance and participation will make up 20% of your final grade.
- (2) Blog Postings : We will be using Edublogs this semester. The URL for our course blog is <http://contemporarykoreanhistory.edublogs.org/>. The blog is intended to be an open forum for you to make observations, raise points, and pose questions about course materials. *In this sense, it is an extension of our class meetings.* What you post in your entries will help me to gain a better understanding of how you are engaging with the materials that I have assigned. You can write entries in response to readings, films, images, and your own research (later in the semester). You're also welcome to relate a contemporary news story or film or TV series or other topic that relates in a pertinent way to this class.

You will be graded for your top 10 blog entries, and you may post more than 10 times over the course of the semester. Entries should be at least 250 words in length. *Be sure to post by 9 a.m. on the day of class so that I have time to read what you've written.* Rather than wait until the last few weeks of the semester, get started early! Your blog entries will amount to 25% of the final grade (10 blog entries x 2% = 20%).
- (3) Blog Comments: Comments are an important component of the blog, so I also want you to contribute intelligent comments to your classmates' entries on a regular basis. Be prepared to post a minimum of 25 comments over the course of the semester. Same request as above: Rather than wait until the last few weeks of the semester, get started early! Blog comments will amount to 5% of the final grade.
- (4) Short Paper: You will write a 5-6 page paper (12-font, double-spaced) due on March 1. I will give you the guidelines for this assignment on February 14. The short paper will make up 20% of the final grade.
- (5) Final Paper: You will also write a 10-12 page research paper (12-font, double spaced) due on May 18. We will work on this paper in the second half of the semester. The final paper will make up 30% of the final grade.

(6) Final Paper Preparation: Preliminary research and planning is essential to put together a good final paper. You will get started on this process after the short paper, and will pick up the pace in subsequent weeks. On April 10, the first class meeting after spring break, you will submit a topic proposal. And some time between April 12 and April 19, you will meet with me to discuss it. Topic proposal and one-on-one consultation with me will make up 5% of the final grade.

(7) Recap of Grading:

Attendance & Participation: 20%

Blog Postings: 20%

Blog Comments: 5%

Short Paper (5-6 pages): 20% - Due March 1

Final Paper (10-12 pages): 30% - Due May 18

Paper Preparation (Topic Proposal & Meeting with Instructor): 5%

Course Regulations:

- (1) No electronic devices in class without my permission. This includes laptops, tablets, smart phones, and so on.
- (2) Late paper submissions will receive a 5-point deduction for each late day.
- (3) Plagiarism – the use of another person’s words or ideas without citation – will not be tolerated in any assignment for this course.
- (4) Be accountable. Carefully read this syllabus, course emails, and assignment guidelines, and pay attention to announcements in class and in sections. When in doubt, ask me.

Note on Romanization:

Nowadays, Korean is written primarily in *Hangeul*, a phonetic script invented in the fifteenth century. *Hangeul* is well suited for the Korean language; the Roman alphabet is not. There are two widely used Romanization system for modern Korean: the **McCune Reischauer System** (MCR) and the **Revised Romanization System** (RR). The South Korean government adopted the latter system in 2000, and its use has expanded a lot since then, especially in South Korean publications. The MCR System was created in the 1930s and remains

the Romanization system of choice among scholars, librarians, and publishers. As a result, most scholarly articles and books use the MCR System. In this class, we will use the MCR system. There are pros and cons for each system. I have chosen to use the MCR system, but the RR system and other forms of Romanization may appear in readings and other course materials. Just do your best with names, places, and terms. If you have any questions about pronunciation, inconsistent spellings, or anything else concerning Romanization, feel free to ask.

Tues., Jan. 24 – Course Introduction

SECTION 1: Perspectives on the Korean War

Thurs., Jan. 26 – American Perspectives

Read through this syllabus carefully. Consider it a *written contract* between you and me. It will remain in effect throughout the entirety of the course.

Sign up on Edublogs at <http://edublogs.org/signup/>. By email, send me your username and the email address you wish to use with it. *You don't need to create your own blog.* A username is all that you need to be an author on the course blog.

Bruce Cumings, *The Korean War: A History* (New York: Modern Library Chronicles, 2010), pp. 77-100.

Mark E. Caprio, "Neglected Questions on the "Forgotten War": South Korea and the United States on the Eve of the Korean War," *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, January 31, 2011. Access at <http://japanfocus.org/-Mark-Caprio/3482>

Articles from the Harold Boyle Papers (1950), pp. 1-17.

Fri., Jan. 27 – *Steel Helmet* (dir. Samuel Fuller, 1951, 85 min.)

Tues., Jan. 31 – South Korean Perspectives: Civilians

KIM Dong-Choon, *The Unending Korean War: A Social History* (Larkspur, Calif.: Tamal Vista Publications, 2008), pp. 3-17.

Heonik KWON, "The Korean War Mass Graves," *The Asia-Pacific Journal*,

August 1, 2008. Access at <http://www.japanfocus.org/-Heonik-Kwon/2847>

Heonik KWON, "Korean War Traumas," *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, September 20, 2010. Access at <http://japanfocus.org/-Heonik-Kwon/3413>

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

Thurs., Feb. 2 – North Korean Perspectives: The State

Bruce Cumings, *The Korean War: A History* (New York: Modern Library Chronicles, 2010), pp. 37-58.

Party History Research Institute, *History of Revolutionary Activities of the Great Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung* (Pyongyang: Foreign Languages Publishing House, 1983), pp. 275-297.

Fri., Feb. 3 – *On the Railway* (1966, 90 min.)

OR *True Daughter of the Party* (Revolutionary Opera, 155 min.)

Tues., Feb. 7 – South Korean Perspectives: The State

Sheila Miyoshi Jager & Jiyul KIM, "The Korean War after the Cold War: Commemorating the Armistice Agreement in South Korea," in *Ruptured Histories* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007), pp. 233-265.

PARK Chung Hee, "The Korean War and Participation of the 16 United Nations," in *Our Nation's Path* (Seoul: Dong-A Publishing, Co., Ltd., 1962), 150-157.

Thurs., Feb. 9 – The Korean War: Then and Now

Gaven McCormack, "The War That Was, 1950-1953," in *Target North Korea* (New York: Nation Books, 2004), pp. 15-50.

Nan KIM, "Korea on the Brink: Reading the *Yônp'yông* Shelling and its Aftermath," *The Journal of Asian Studies* (May 2011), pp. 337-356.

HaniTV Documentary: "Beneath the Surface: the investigation into the sinking of the Cheonan." Access at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDITkTEDVNA>

Fri., Feb. 10 – *The Marines Who Never Returned* (dir. LEE Man-Hee, 1963, 109 min.)

OR *Welcome To Dongmakgol* (dir. PARK Kwang-Hyun, 133 min., 2005)

Tues., Feb. 14 – Film Discussion and Guidelines for Short Paper

Tessa Morris-Suzuki, "Moving Pictures: The Filming of History," in *The Past Within Us: Media, Memory, History* (London: Verso, 2005), 120-157.

SECTION 2: The Cold War, Economic Development, and Political Protest

Thurs., Feb. 16 – Modernization of the Fatherland

HAN Hong-koo, "South Korea and the Vietnam War," in *Developmental Dictatorship and the Park Chung Hee Era* (Paramus, NJ: Homa & Sekey Books, 2006), pp. 248-270. *NOTE: This reading is not included in the course reader. It will be available on Learn@UW under Content.*

CHOI In-Hoon, "The Voice of the Governor General," in *The Voice of the Governor-General and Other Stories of Modern Korea* (Norwalk, Conn.: EastBridge, 2002), 165-190.

Fri., Feb. 17 - *Silmido* (dir. KANG Woo-Suk, 2003, 135 min.)

OR *The Road To Sampo* (dir. LEE Man-hee, 1975, 98 min.)

Tues., Feb. 21 - Critique and Repression

Michael J. Seth, *A Concise History of Modern Korea* (Lanham, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2010, pp. 181-187.

KIM Chiha, "Five Bandits," in *Sources of Korean Tradition*, vol. 2 (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001), pp. 400-411.

George E. Ogle, "Our Hearts Cry with You," in *More Than Witnesses* (Mequon, Wisc.: Nightingale Press, 2008), pp. 67-99.

Thurs., Feb. 23 – The Kwangju Uprising

Bruce Cumings, "Introduction," in *Kwangju Diary* (Los Angeles: UCLA Asian Pacific Monograph Series, 1999), pp. 17-35.

Henry Scott-Stokes & LEE Jai Eui, *The Kwangju Uprising: Eyewitness Press Accounts of Korea's Tiananmen* (Armonk, NY: ME Sharpe, 2000), pp. 3-17, 63-76, 87-105.

Tim Shorrock, "Reading the Egyptian Revolution Through the Lens of US Policy in South Korea Circa 1980: Revelations in US Declassified Documents," *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, July 11, 2011. Access at: japanfocus.org/-Tim-Shorrock/3561

Fri., Feb. 24 – *May 18* (dir. KIM Ji-hun, 2007, 120 min.)

Tues., Feb. 28 – The *Minjung* Movement (aka, the Democratization Movement)

Kenneth M. Wells, "The Cultural Construction of Korean History," in *South Korea's Minjung Movement* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1995), pp. 11-14.

Namhee LEE, "The Construction of Minjung," in *The Making of Minjung* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2007), pp. 37-64.

CHO Se-hûi, "Knifeblade," in *The Dwarf* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2006), pp. 13-32.

Thurs., Mar. 1 – No Class: First Paper Due

Fri., Mar. 2 – *Chilsu and Mansu* (dir. PARK Kwang-su, 1988, 109 min.)

Tues., Mar. 6 – Undongkwôn

Namhee LEE, “The South Korean student movement: *undongkwôn* as a counterpublic sphere,” in *Korean Society: Civil society, democracy and the state* (London: Routledge, 2002), pp. 95-120.

CH’OE Yun, “The Gray Snowman,” in *Modern Korean Fiction: An Anthology* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005), pp. 345-370.

Thurs., Mar. 8 – Protest Songs

Guest Lecture by Ms. Hye Eun CHOI (UW-Madison, History Department)

Reading tba

Tues., Mar. 13 – Using Historical Sources (1)

Robert C. Williams, *The Historian's Toolbox: A Student's Guide to the Theory and Craft of History*, pp. 3-26, 47-69.

Additional reading tba

Thurs., Mar. 15 – No Class – Preliminary Research

Tues., Mar. 20 – Using Historical Sources (2)

Robert C. Williams, *The Historian's Toolbox: A Student's Guide to the Theory and Craft of History*, pp. 90-125, 149-160.

Additional reading tba

SECTION 3: Remembering the War

Thurs., Mar. 22 – Recovering the Past

Bruce Cumings, *The Korean War: A History* (New York: Modern Library Chronicles, 2010), pp. 163-203.

CHO Chôngnae, "Land of Exile," in *Land of Exile: Contemporary Korean Fiction* (Armonk, NY: ME Sharpe, 2007), pp. 176-214.

Fri., Mar. 23 – *Last Witness* (dir. LEE Doo-yong, 1980, 155 min.)

Tues., Mar. 27 – Truth and Reconciliation?

Gavan McCormack and KIM Dong-choon, "Grappling with Cold War History: Korea's Embattled Truth and Reconciliation Commission," *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, February 21, 2009. Access at japanfocus.org/-Kim-Dong_choon/3056

KIM Dong-choon, "The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Korea: Uncovering the Hidden Korean War," *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, March 1, 2010. Access at japanfocus.org/-Kim-Dong_choon/3314

KIM Dong-choon and Mark Selden, "South Korea's Embattled Truth and Reconciliation Commission," *Japan Focus*, March 1, 2010: japanfocus.org/-Kim-Dong_choon/3313

CHOE Sang-Hun, "After Torture and Betrayal, Reconciliation," *The New York Times*, August 10, 2009. Access at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/11/world/asia/11iht-friends.html?pagewanted=all>

CHOE Sang-Hun, "Korea Investigates Atrocities in Race Against Time," *The New York Times*, September 3, 2009. Access at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/04/world/asia/04truth.html?pagewanted=all>

CHOE Sang-Hun, "Korean War Panel Finds U.S. Attacks on Civilians," *The New York Times*, July 9, 2010. Access at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/07/10/world/asia/10comission.html>

Thurs., Mar. 29 – Korean American Memories

Tessa Morris-Suzuki, "Random Access Memory: History in a Multimedia Age," in *The Past Within Us: Media, Memory, History* (London: Verso, 2005), pp. 206-228.

Online Exhibit, *Still Present Pasts: Korean Americans and the "Forgotten War"*.
Access at: <http://stillpresentpasts.org/>

Tessa Morris-Suzuki, "Remembering the Unfinished Conflict: Museums and the Contested Memory of the Korean War," *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, July 27, 2009. Access at http://japanfocus.org/-Tessa-Morris_Suzuki/3193

SPRING BREAK: Mar. 31 – Apr. 8

Tues., Apr. 10 – North Korean War Memories

Suk-Young KIM, "Springtime for Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang: City on Stage, City as Stage," *The Drama Review* 51:2 (Summer 2007), pp. 24-40.

CHO Pyônggwôn, *Great General Mighty Wing*, Gold Star Children's Press, 1994.
Access at: heinzinsufenkl.net/dprk_manhwa.html

Additional reading tba.

Optional Reading: Bruce Cumings, *The Korean War: A History* (New York: Modern Library Chronicles, 2010), pp. 147-161.

PAPER TOPICS DUE IN CLASS

Thurs., Apr. 12 – No Class – Individual Consultations with Instructor

Tues., Apr. 17 – No Class – Individual Consultations with Instructor

Thurs., Apr. 19 – No Class – Individual Consultations with Instructor

SECTION 5: Contemporary North Korea

Tues., Apr. 24 – North Korean Beliefs (1)

Sonia RYANG, "Introduction: North Korea: Going Beyond Security and Enemy Rhetoric," in *North Korea: Toward a Better Understanding* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2009), 1-16.

KIM Yong, *Long Road Home: Testimony of a North Korean Camp Survivor* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), pp. 1-60.

Thurs., Apr. 26 – North Korean Beliefs (2)

Heonik KWON, “North Korea’s Politics of Longing,” *Critical Asian Studies* (Winter 2010), pp. 3-24.

KIM Yong, *Long Road Home: Testimony of a North Korean Camp Survivor* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), pp. 61-103.

Fri., Apr. 27 – *Crossing* (dir. KIM Tae-kyun, 2008)

Tues., May 1 – North Korean Beliefs (3)

Andrei Lankov, “North Korean Refugees in Northeast China,” *Asian Survey* (November/December 2004), pp. 756-873.

KIM Yong, *Long Road Home: Testimony of a North Korean Camp Survivor* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009), pp. 105-163.

Thurs., May 3 – Contemporary Issues

Readings tba

Fri., May 4 – Film screening tba

Tues., May 8 – Contemporary Issues

Readings tba

Thurs., May 10 – Reading Day

Fri., May 18 – Final Paper Due

Submit a hard copy of your final paper no later than 5 pm at my office or in my mailbox.