

History 706: Topics in Transnational History - Cold War Asia

Professors Shelly Chan and Charles Kim

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Spring 2020

Seminar: Thursdays 3:30-5:25 Humanities 5257

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Course Description:

This seminar examines how recent scholarship has expanded and challenged foundational narratives about the Cold War through a focus on Asia. As much of Asia underwent significant transformation during the twentieth century, our **course learning objective** is to explore “Cold War Asia” in the following ways:

- as a social process extending beyond the realms of great power politics, foreign policies, and state actors;
- as a unit of spatial and temporal analysis for the study of empires, nations, revolutions, knowledge, memory, culture, and identity;
- as a critical lens to view systemic, inter-Asian, and global dimensions of change in the long twentieth century.

Requirements

1) Attendance, participation, and leading discussion (25%): Students will sign up for two different roles: 1. give a 10-minute quick summary of the arguments of the readings; and 2. organize discussion questions contributed by other members of the seminar. Attendance is required for each seminar meeting.

2) Weekly postings (25%): A post of 250-500 words is due on Canvas on Thursdays at 9 am. Each post should contain a response to the readings as a whole and suggest two questions for discussion. Read all the other posts by members of the seminar before coming to the meeting. No need to post for the weeks that you lead discussion.

3) Historiographic paper, 15-20 pages (50%): Write an analytical essay about 3-4 assigned texts and 3-4 others of your choice in consultation with one of the instructors.

- Consult an instructor about your final paper topic before spring break.
- A proposal (1-2 pages) and an annotated bibliography (6-8 sources) is due before class on March 26.
- Presentations in the final meeting on April 30.
- Final paper is due by email to both instructors on Thursday, May 7.

Note: The credit standard for this 3-credit course is met by an expectation of a total of 135 hours of student engagement with the course's learning activities (at least 45 hours per credit or 9 hours per week), which include regularly scheduled meeting times (group seminar meetings of 115 minutes per week), dedicated online time, reading, writing, field trips, individual consultations with the instructor, and other student work as described in the syllabus.

Schedule

Jan. 23: Introduction

Immanuel Wallerstein, "What Cold War in Asia? An Interpretative Essay." In *The Cold War in Asia: The Battle for Hearts and Minds* (Brill, 2010), 15-24. [E-book available through UW libraries.]

Hong Liu and Michael Szonyi, "New Approaches to the Study of the Cold War in Asia." In *The Cold War in Asia*, 1-11. [E-book available through UW libraries.]

Jan. 30: Concepts and Framings

Mark Philip Bradley, "Decolonization, the Global South, and the Cold War, 1919-62." In *The Cambridge History of the Cold War* (Cambridge, 2010), 464-485. [Available in shared Google Folder]

Martin Lewis and Kären Wigen, *The Myth of Continents: A Critique of Metageography* (California, 1997), preface-72.

Kuan-hsing Chen, *Asia as Method: Toward Deimperialization* (Duke, 2010), 115-256.

I. Origins

Feb. 6: Globalizing the Cold War

Odd Arne Westad, *The Cold War: A History* (Basic Books, 2017).

Feb. 13: From Discourse to Reality

Masuda Hajimu, *Cold War Crucible: The Korean Conflict and the Postwar Order* (Harvard, 2015). [Available in shared Google Folder]

II. The Other Cold Wars

Feb. 20: The Korean War

Monica Kim, *The Interrogation Rooms of the Korean War* (Princeton, 2019).

Note: Talk by Monica Kim, Tuesday February 18, 4-5:30, Curti Lounge (Humanities 5233).

Feb. 27: Bandung and the Non-Aligned Movement

Christopher J. Lee, "Between a Moment and an Era: The Origins and Afterlives of Bandung." In *Making a World after Empire: The Bandung Moment and*

Its Political Afterlives (Ohio UP, 2010), 1-42. [Available in shared Google Folder]

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "The Legacies of Bandung: Decolonization and the Politics of Culture." In *Making a World after Empire*, 45-68. [Available in shared Google Folder]

Vijay Prashad, *The Darker Nations: A People's History of the Third World* (The New Press, 2007), 119-275.

March 5: Mao's Cold War

Julia Lovell, *Maoism: A Global History* (Knopf, 2019).

March 12: Migration and Diplomacy

Taomo Zhou, *Migration in the Time of Revolution: China, Indonesia, and the Cold War* (Cornell, 2019).

March 19 - Spring Break

March 26 - The Cultural Cold War

Heonik Kwon, *The Other Cold War*, "Cold War Culture in Perspective," 139-152. [Available on JSTOR.]

Stefan Huebner, *Pan-Asian Sports and the Emergence of Modern Asia, 1913-1974*. "Nehru's Asia" and "'Reborn' Japan," 102-124, 143-173.

Sangjoon Lee, "The Asia Foundation's Motion-Picture Project and the Cultural Cold War in Asia." *Film History*, vol. 29, no. 2 (Summer 2017), pp. 108-137.

Sangjoon Lee, "Destination Hong Kong: The Geopolitics of South Korean

Espionage Films in the 1960s.” *Journal of Korean Studies*, vol. 22, no. 2 (Fall 2017), pp. 343-364. [Available in shared Google Folder]

April 2 - Margins and Frontiers

Michael Szonyi, *Cold War Island: Quemoy on the Front Line* (Cambridge, 2008).

Poshek Fu, “More than Just Entertaining: Cinematic Containment and Asia’s Cold War in Hong Kong, 1949–1959.” *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*, vol. 30, no.2 (Fall 2018), pp. 1-55. [Available in shared Google Folder]

IV. Are We Post-Cold War?

April 9 - Local Memories/Global Cold War

Heonik Kwon, *Ghosts of War in Vietnam* (Cambridge, 2008).

Heonik Kwon, *The Other Cold War*. “The Idea of the End,” 15-36. [Available on JSTOR.]

April 16 - Redress

Lisa Yoneyama, *Cold War Ruins: Transpacific Critique of American Justice and Japanese War Crimes* (Duke, 2016).

April 23 - What Cold War in Asia?

Parag Khanna, *The Future is Asian: Commerce, Conflict, and Culture in the 21st Century* (Simon & Schuster, 2019).

April 30 - Presentations