Course Description

Korea had a particularly war-torn history. With the understanding that wars not only mean violence, death, destruction, but also movement of peoples, things, and technology, we will explore the processes and effects of numerous wars that Korea was involved in. Why did the war break out? How did it proceed? What were its effects, both short-term and long-term?

The course is divided into four parts: PART I will begin with the ancient period in Korea, where wars between kingdoms in the Korean peninsula, as well as against kingdoms in China have eventually produced a unified political community (Silla) in the Korean peninsula. PART II will examine the wars in the medieval and early modern periods of Korea. Two major wars we will examine are the Mongol Invasions of Koryŏ dynasty and the Imjin War (Hideyoshi Invasion) of Chosŏn dynasty. Both wars engendered major transformations of society and culture, land system and taxation, as well as ideology. PART III will turn to the emergence of imperialism in Asia, and how it led to Korea’s colonization by Japan. As Japan’s colony, Korea was also heavily involved and affected by the series of wars fought by Japan from the Manchurian Incident to the Pacific War, various effects of which we will also consider. In PART IV, we will examine wars and militarism in the modern period, including the Korean War and the Vietnam War. We will also examine various state violence on civil society carried out by the military dictator governments, (1960-1987) and how that influenced people’s lives in Korea.

We will utilize a variety of material – historical documents in translation, novels, and films- to access the historical narrative. Students will also be expected to hone writing skills through multiple writing assignments designed to train students to write clear, coherent argument that demonstrates successful historical analysis and reasoning. By the end of the term, the students will not only have mastered historical knowledge about numerous wars in Korean history, but also have significantly improved their skills in writing and critical thinking.

Required Books


Other readings will be provided through D2L.

Assignments and Grading Breakdown

Attendance and Participation (10%)
Papers (40%): 2 response papers to readings (1-2 pages) x 10%
  1 paper (5 pages) x 20%
Exams (50%): 2 Midterms (15%), 1 Final (20%)

Attendance/ Participation: Active participation in class discussions is encouraged and will be taken into consideration in grading attendance. Unless you miss class for medical reasons
(verified by a doctor’s note), you will be responsible for all material covered in class. You will also be responsible for all announcements made in class.

Readings: Students must read the assigned pages of the textbook and additional readings before attending the class.

Source reading discussion: Please bring the assigned readings to class. Read the material beforehand. More detailed guidance will be given in the first discussion session.

Exams: Two midterm exams and one final exam will be given. Midterm exam will be given in class during regular class time on the scheduled date. Final exam will be given on the official scheduled date and time. Please plan accordingly. You do not need to bring a bluebook.

Papers: All papers should be submitted in hard copy form to the instructor in class. Detailed paper prompts will be given well in advance before the due date. All late papers will be penalized one full letter grade. The student is personally responsible for making sure that papers submitted outside of class is delivered to the instructor. If leaving paper copy in my mailbox, remember to time-stamp it. Emailed papers are strongly discouraged. If you email the paper after class on the due date, it will be considered late. If you must turn in assignments via e-mail (and you are discouraged from doing so), please attach them as Microsoft Word (.doc), PDF, or Rich-text formatted (.rtf) documents; e-mailed papers will only be considered turned in when a legible copy is received. Plagiarized papers will receive a failing grade, and the plagiarizer will be reported to the Honor Code Council.

Make-up policy: Arrangement for make-up exams can be made. ONLY those with religious and emergency reasons (sickness verified by a doctor’s note, or death of immediate family members) will be given full credit for make-up exams. Early departure for vacation/break, or for other family-related event (weddings, birthdays, etc.) is NOT a legitimate reason for a make-up exam. Make-up given for poorly documented reasons or non-legitimate reasons will be penalized for 10% of the total grade, without exceptions. Please consult with the instructor before the exam date for approval and arrangements. If it is a medical emergency, you may email the instructor by the exam date. The instructor reserves the right to approve make-up exams.

Email Courtesy: Please keep common-sense courtesy when emailing the instructor. Please use proper greetings when addressing instructor. (“Dear Professor Lim”) Remember to include course number or title (“HIST 2220” or “[War and Society]”) in the subject heading, and sign the email with your full name. (“Sincerely, Jane Doe”) I will NOT respond to any emails not following these instructions. Please give reasonable time (1-2 week days) for response.

Lecture and Reading Schedule
[*Subject to change: Watch out for in-class/email/D2L announcements.]

PART I Wars of the Ancient Period

Week 1
Jan 13 Introduction to the Course

PART I Emergence of a Unified Political Community: Wars of Ancient Kingdoms

Jan 15 When Does Korean History Begin? Perspectives on Tangun
Jan 17 Battles between the Three Kingdoms (Hwang, pp. 1-11)
Week 2
Jan 20  (no class – Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday)
Jan 22  “International” Relations of the Ancient Kingdoms on the Peninsula
Jan 24 Silla’s Unification of the Three Kingdoms (Hwang, pp. 12-32)

PART II Wars in Koryŏ and Chosŏn Dynasties

Week 3 Koryŏ and the Mongol Invasion
Jan 27  The Rise and Fall of Koryŏ Aristocrats and the Emergence of the Military Rule (Hwang, 33-50)
Jan 29  The Mongol Invasion (Hwang, 51-59)
Jan 31  The Mongol Occupation and Its Social Effects

Week 4 Wars of Chosŏn dynasty
Feb  3  The Emergence of the Literati Elite and the Rise of the Anti-Military Policies (Hwang, 60-67)
[discussion] “Chŏng Inji: Dedication of the History of Koryŏ” Sources of Korean Tradition, vo. 1, p. 303-304
Feb  5  The Imjin War (The Hideyoshi Invasion): Processes and Effects (Hwang, 80-87)
Feb  7  The Manchu Invasions (Pyŏngja and Chŏngmyo Horan): Processes and Effects [Paper #1 primary source analysis DUE]

Week 5 Social Effects of the Wars
Feb 10  Social –Cultural Changes After the Foreign Invasions (Hwang, 88-98)
Feb 12  The Debate Over Northern Expedition and Other Postwar Developments (Hwang, 99-117)
Feb 14  (Review)

Week 6
Feb 17  (Midterm 1)

PART III Korea Under Imperialist Aggression

Feb 19  The Arrival of Imperialism and the Chosŏn Court Responses (Hwang, 118-128)
Feb 21  Tonghak Peasant Rebellion and the Sino-Japanese War (Hwang, 129-137)

Week 7 Japanese Annexation and Pacification
Feb 24  The Russo-Japanese War: processes and aftermath (Hwang, 150-160)
Feb 26  Korean Resistance: The Righteous Armies (Ŭibyŏng)  

Feb 28  Annexation and the “Military Rule” Period

Week 8 Mobilization of the Korean Colony

Mar 3  The March First Movement and the “Culture Rule” (Hwang, 161-171)  

Mar 5  The Manchurian Incident and the Militarization of the Japanese Empire (Hwang, 172-182)  

Mar 7  Mobilized as Colonial Subjects (Hwang, 183-194)  

Week 9

Mar 10  End of the Pacific War: Dissolution of the Japanese Empire  

Mar 12  Liberation and the Aftermath (Hwang, 195-204)  
[discussion] Oral Testimonies from Under the Black Umbrella, selections

Mar 14  [online discussion] The Comfort Women Issue

Week 10

Mar 17  (Review)

Mar 19  (Midterm 2)

PART IV The Korean War and Beyond

The Korean War

Mar 21  The Korean War in Films  
[Film] “Taegukki” (Brotherhood of War) and “Welcome to Dongmakkol” clips.

*  Begin reading Pak Wan-so “Momma’s Stake Part Two” and Choe In-hoon, “The Square”

[Spring Break Mar 24-28]

Week 11 The Korean War in Films and Literature

Mar 31  The Korean War, from the First Gunshot to Armistice (Hwang, 205-209)

Apr 2  The Image of U.S. in the Korean War  
[Film] “A Little Pond” (chagŭn yŏhnmut)

Apr 4  Effects of the Korean War I: Stories of Suffering, Survival, and Recovery  
Week 12 The Cold War
Apr 7 Effects of the Korean War II: Camptowns
Apr 9 Ideological Tension During the Cold War [Paper #2 DUE – film response]
Apr 11 [discussion] Choe In-hun (Choi In-hoon), “The Square” (1960)

Week 13 Under the Military Dictatorship
Apr 14 The April Uprising and the Military Coup of Park Chunghee (Hwang, 225-235)
Apr 16 The Military Dictatorship, 1960~1979 (Hwang, 236-248)
Apr 18 The Vietnam War and the Economic Recovery

Week 14 Struggle Towards Democratization
Apr 21 The Kwangju Uprising, 1980
   [Film] “Hwaryŏhan hyuga” (May 18) clips
Apr 22 Democratic Movement, 1980s (Hwang, 261-269)
   [discussion] Im Chor-u, “The Red Room” in Bruce and Ju-chan Fulton, trans., The Red Room: Stories of Trauma in Contemporary Korea (University of Hawai’i Press, 2009)
Apr 24 South Korea-North Korea Relations
   [Film] “JSA (Joint Security Area)”

Week 15 Militarized Culture and Other Remaining Issues
Apr 28 Militarized Citizenship
   [discussion] Seung-sook Moon, Militarized Modernity and Gendered Citizenship in South Korea, Chapters 3 and 6
Apr 30 Contemporary Discussions on Military and War in Korea
May 2 (Final Review)

Final Exam, Tuesday May 6, 7:30-10:00 PM [Must Enter Lecture Hall by 8PM to take exam] [Paper #3 DUE]

Other Important Notices

*Disability Statement:* If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to me from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/

*Decorum Statement:* Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. Additional information may be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html
** *Honor Code:* All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Additional information on the Honor Code can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html

** *Religious Observance:* Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. If you have a potential class conflict because of religious observance, you must inform me of that conflict within three weeks of the start of classes. See policy details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

** *Sexual Harassment:* The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at http://www.colorado.edu/odh/