

HSEA UN3863: THE HISTORY OF MODERN KOREA (Spring 2018)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:40-3:55 PM
233 Seeley W. Mudd Building

Instructor Information:

Charles K. Armstrong (Columbia University)

Description: The history of Korea from mid-19th century to the present, with an emphasis on political, economic, cultural and social change in the twentieth century.

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance, section discussion and Courseworks postings (15% of grade). More than two unexcused absences from either the lecture or discussion will result in the drop of one letter grade.
2. Analysis of primary text, approximately 3 pages, due February 22 (15%).
3. In-class mid-term on Thursday March 8 (30%).
4. Final take-home exam, 2,500 words (approximately 10 pages), due May 3 (40%)

Required Texts

Adrian Buzo, *The Making of Modern Korea* (Routledge, 2017)

Min Jin Lee, *Pachinko* (Grand Central, 2018)

Bandi, *The Accusation* (Grove Press, 2017)

Han Kang, *Human Acts* (Hogarth, 2016)

Recommended Text: *Sources of Korean Tradition, Volume Two* (Columbia, 2000)

All books are for sale at Book Culture, 536 West 112th Street, and on reserve at the C.V. Starr East Asian Library in Kent Hall. Other readings are available on Courseworks under “Files.”

WEEKLY READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Late Chosŏn, Early Modern

Tuesday 1/16. Course Introduction

Thursday 1/18. Everyday Life in Chosŏn

Required Readings:

Buzo, *Making of Modern Korea*, Chapter 1

“A Typical Day and Year in the Life of the Peasantry” (pp. 47 - 59) in Michael D. Shin, ed. *Everyday Life in Joseon-Era Korea*

Isabella Bird Bishop, *Korea and Her Neighbors* pp. 1 - 65

Week 2: Korea in the World, 1864 - 1894

Tuesday 1/23. The Taewŏngun Era, 1864 - 1873

Thursday 1/25. Eastern Way, Western Method, 1873 - 1894

Required Readings:

Buzo, chapter 2

Gordon H. Chang, “Whose ‘Barbarism’? Whose ‘Treachery’? Race and Civilization in the Unknown United States-Korea War of 1871,” *Journal of American History* (March 2003): pp. 1331-65

Andrew Eungi Kim, “Political Insecurity, Social Chaos, Religious Void and the Rise of Protestantism in Late Nineteenth-Century Korea,” *Social History* (October 2001): pp. 267-81

Sources of Korean Tradition, Vol. 2:

“Yi Hangno: Sinify the Western Barbarians,” pp. 140 - 42

“Ch’oe Che-u: On Learning Truth,” pp. 232 - 34

“Yu Kilchin: Levels of Enlightenment,” pp. 248 - 53

Week 3: The End of Chosŏn

Tuesday, 1/31. The Korean Empire

Thursday, 2/01. The Road to Annexation

Required Readings:

Yi Tae-jin, "The Illegality of the Forced Treaties Leading to Japan's Annexation of the Great Han Empire," *Korea Journal* (Winter 1996): pp. 55 - 84

Yumi Moon, "Immoral Rights: Korean Populist Collaborators and the Japanese Colonization of Korea, 1904 – 1910," *American Historical Review*, (February 2013): pp. 20-44

Sources of Korean Tradition, Vol. 2:

"A Call to Arms Issued at Paeksan," pp. 263 - 4

"Kabo Reform Edicts," pp. 273 - 75

Selections from *The Independent*

"Inaugural Message of the Independent," pp. 279-280

"Essay on the Korean Language," pp. 280-281

"His Majesty the King is now Emperor of Korea," and "Imperial Edict."

"People are the Masters," pp. 286-288

Week 4: Joining Japan, 1910 - 1919

Tuesday, 2/06. The Colonizing Project

Thursday, 2/08. March First and its Aftermath

Required Readings:

Buzo, chapter 3

Pachinko, Book 1 chapters 1 - 11, pp. 5 - 94

Erez Manela, *The Wilsonian Moment*, Chapter Six: "Seizing the Moment in Seoul" pp. 119-140

Week 5: Colonial and Anti-Colonial Modernity, 1920 - 1931

Tuesday, 2/13. "Cultural Politics" and Korean Culture

Thursday, 2/15. Nationalist Movements

Required Readings:

Michael Robinson, "Broadcasting, Cultural Hegemony and Colonial Modernity," in Shin and

Robinson, eds. *Colonial Modernity in Korea* pp. 52-67

Pachinko, Book 1 chapters 12 - 17, pp. 95-145

Sources of Korean Tradition, Vol. 2:

“The Nationalist Movement,” pp. 333 – 351

“The Communist Movement,” pp. 352 – 366

Week 6: Wartime Mobilization and Assimilation, 1931 - 1945

Tuesday, 2/20. The Wartime Colony

Thursday, 2/22. Koreans as Japanese

Required Readings:

Buzo, chapters 4

Mark E. Caprio, *Japanese Assimilation Policies in Colonial Korea, 1910 – 1945*, pp. 141 – 170

Pachinko, Book 2 chapters 1-9, pp. 149-201

Week 7: Liberation, Division and War, 1945 – 1953

Tuesday, 2/27. The “Liberation Space”

Thursday, 3/01. Origins, Outbreak and Conduct of the Korean War

Required Readings:

Buzo, chapter 5 and 6

Bruce Cumings, “The Conduct of the War,” in Cumings *The Korean War*, pp. 3 – 35

Pachinko, Book 2 chapters 1-9, pp. 202-236

Week 8: The Korean War in Memory

Tuesday, 3/06. The Remembered War

Thursday, 3/08. MID-TERM EXAMINATION

(No required readings or discussion sections this week.)

Week 9: SPRING BREAK, 3/12 - 3/16

Week 10: Post-War Reconstruction

Tuesday, 3/20. The North and Fraternal Socialist Allies

Thursday, 3/22. The South and the Free World

Required Readings:

Buzo, chapter 7

Charles K. Armstrong, "The Destruction and Reconstruction of North Korea, 1950-1960," *Asia Pacific Journal*,

Cheehyung Harrison Kim, "North Korea's Vinalon City: Industrialism as Socialist Everyday Life," *Positions Asia*

Stephen Hugh Lee, "The United Nations Reconstruction Agency in War and Peace: An Economic and Social History of Korea in the 1950s," pp. 356-396

Week 11: Divergence, Development, and Democracy

Tuesday, March 27. Political Economies of Development

Thursday, April 29. Human Rights and Democratization

Required Readings:

Buzo, chapter 8

Kim Il Sung "On Socialist Construction in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the South Korean Revolution" (1965)

Tadashi Kimiya, "The Cold War and the Political Economy of the Park Chung Hee Regime," in Hyung-A Kim and Clark Sorensen, eds. *Reassessing the Park Chung Hee Era*, pp. 66 – 94.

Gi-Wook Shin, et al. "The Korean Democracy Movement: An Empirical Overview," in Gi-Wook Shin and Paul Y. Chang, *South Korean Social Movement: From Democracy to Civil Society*, pp. 21 – 40.

Human Acts, chapters 1-3, pp. 1-110

Week 12: The Korean Diaspora

Tuesday, April 3. Special Guest Lecture: Min Jin Lee, author of *Pachinko*

Thursday, April 5. The Korean Diaspora in China, America, Japan and the former USSR

Required Readings:

Charles Armstrong, *The Koreas*, chapter 4: “The Korean Diaspora”

Tessa Morris-Suzuki, *Exodus to North Korea*, pp. 3-12, 41-69

Eleana Kim, “Our Adoptee, Our Alien,” from *Adopted Territory: Transnational Korean Adoptees and the Politics of Belonging*, pp. 172 - 208

Pachinko, Book 2 chapters 10-20, pp. 237-321

Week 13: The Two Koreas and the End of the Cold War

Tuesday, April 10. Inter-Korean Relations and the “Collapse of Communism”

Thursday, April 12. Film: “A Schoolgirl’s Diary” (2006)

Required Readings:

Buzo, chapter 9

Charles Armstrong, “1989 and the Korean Peninsula,” in Ulf Engel et al. *1989 in a Global Perspective*, pp. 230 - 257

Charles Armstrong, “Ideological Introversion and Regime Survival: North Korea’s ‘Our-Style Socialism,’” in Martin Dmitrov, ed. *Why Communism Didn’t Collapse*, 99 - 119

Human Acts, pp. 111-end

Bandi, “Record of a Defection” and “Life of a Swift Steed” from *The Accusation*

Week 14: Culture of the Two Koreas

Tuesday, April 17. K-Pop and its Discontents

Guest Lecturer: Keith Howard, SOAS, University of London

Thursday, April 19: Korean Music In and Beyond the Peninsula

Required Readings:

Buzo, chapter 10

Keith Howard “Coming of Age: Korean Pop in the 1990s,” in Keith Howard, ed., *Korean Pop Music: Riding the Wave*.

Adam Cathcart & Pekka Korhonen “Death and Transfiguration: The Late Kim Jong-il Aesthetic in North Korean Cultural Production,” *Popular Music and Society* (2017): pp. 390-405

Pachinko, Book 3, pp. 325-396

Week 15: Postmodern Korea

Tuesday, April 23. The Two Koreas in the 21st Century

Thursday, April 25. Korean Futures

Required Readings:

Buzo, chapters 11 and 12

Nora Hui-jung Kim, “Korea: Multiethnic or Multicultural?” in John Lie, ed. *Multiethnic Korea?* pp. 58 - 78

Bandi, “Pandemonium” and “The Red Mushroom” from *The Accusation*