

History of Korean-American Relations

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Office: ...

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Course No: 8753.513

Time: Wed 9:30 – 12:20

Venue: 140-1 / 102

Course description

This course deals with the history of Korean-American relations from the late 19th century to the early 21st century. The particular focus is on US policies toward Korea and Korea's reaction to them during the Cold War as well as on transformations in the US-South Korea alliance relationship after the Cold War. We will discuss the main stages in the development of the bilateral relationship, the factors that affected the process, and the role of the US in South Korea's nation-building, growth, and maturity. The most important question we will ponder on throughout the course is whether the Korean-American relations have been a two-way or one-way process.

The classes will consist of student-led discussions of the reading materials, lectures, and wrap-up discussions. To help students view the events from multiple angles, the reading materials include textbooks, academic articles, accounts of witnesses, and primary policy documents.

Students' responsibilities and evaluation

Students shall attend classes on a regular basis and are expected to actively participate in discussions. Before each class, students shall submit 400-600 word papers in response to the questions designated for each topic. Every week, one to three students (depending on the class size) will be assigned to lead the discussion of the reading material. The discussants shall prepare a brief overview of the readings and suggest questions for the discussion.

During the course, the students are required to work on individual research papers (double spaced, 10-12 pages) due in the final week of the semester. For the research papers, they can define any question related to the topics of the course and utilize secondary scholarship and primary material. Consultations regarding the research question, data, methods, and argument will take place during the week of the mid-term exams. Students shall present summaries of their research findings in the last class of the course.

Evaluation: Attendance and participation in discussions 20%, Discussion leading 10%, weekly papers 40%, research paper and presentation of research findings 30%.

Syllabus

1. Course introduction

2. The first encounters

Question: How did the US and Korea perceive each other in the late 19th – early 20th century?

Lee Yur-Bok, “A Korean View of Korean-American Relations, 1866-1905” in Yur-bok Lee and Wayne Peterson ed., *Korean-American Relations: 1866-1997* (Albany: State University of New York, 1999), Chapter 2, pp. 11-34.

Fred Harvey Harrington, “An American View of Korean–American Relations, 1866-1905,” in Yur-bok Lee and Wayne Peterson ed., *Korean-American Relations: 1866-1997*, Chapter 3, pp. 35-52.

Kang Wi Jo, “Relations between the Japanese Colonial Government and the American Missionary Community in Korea, 1905-1945,” in Yur-bok Lee and Wayne Peterson ed., *Korean-American Relations: 1866-1997*, Chapter 4, pp. 53-66.

Kim Seung-young, *American Diplomacy and Strategy toward Korea and North East Asia, 1882-1950 and After* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), Part I, pp. 13-70.

3. From trusteeship to containment: US plans for Korea in the 1940s

Questions: Why did the US abandon the trusteeship policy? What influence did it have on nation-building in South Korea?

Telegram 861.00/2-2246, The Charge in the Soviet Union (Kennan) to the Secretary of State, Moscow, Feb 22, 1946.

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005), Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-86.

Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun* (New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2005), Chapter 4, pp. 185-236.

Kim Seung-young, *American Diplomacy and Strategy toward Korea and North East Asia*, Parts II and III, pp. 73-174.

Park Tae-gyun, *An Ally and Empire: Two Myths of South Korea-United States Relations, 1945-1980* (Seongnam: The Academy of Korean Studies Press, 2012), Chapters 1 and 2, pp. 37-91.

4. Changes in the policy of containment and the beginning of the Korean War

Questions: What kind of transition and why occur in the American policy of containment? How

did it affect Korea?

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John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, Chapter 4, pp. 87-124.

Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, Chapter 5, pp. 237-298.

Park Tae-gyun, *An Ally and Empire*, Chapter 3, pp. 93-106.

Kim Seung-young, *American Diplomacy and Strategy toward Korea and North East Asia*, Part III, pp. 175-203.

5. The US and President Rhee Syngman

Questions: How did the US perceptions of Rhee Syngman change over time? Can Rhee be praised for his patriotism toward Korea?

Park Tae-gyun, *An Ally and Empire*, Chapter 3, pp. 106-133.

Gregg Brazinsky, *Nation Building in South Korea: Koreans, Americans, and the Making of a Democracy* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007), Chapters 1-4, pp. 14-106.

6. Korea and the New Look

Question: How did economic and military considerations of the US converge in the New Look and what influence did it have on Korea?

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, Chapters 5 and 6, pp. 125-196.

Warren I. Cohen, *The Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations*, Vol. IV, *America in the Age of Soviet Powers, 1945-1991* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), Chapter 4, pp. 81-119.

Park Tae-gyun, *An Ally and Empire*, Chapter 3, pp. 134-147.

7. Rostow's theory of modernization development and Korea's First Five Year Economic Development Plan

The week of research paper consultations

Question: How important was the change in US strategy in the early 1970s to building up the Korean economy?

Max F. Millikan and Walt W. Rostow, *A Proposal: Key to an Effective Foreign Policy* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1957).

Warren I. Cohen, *The Cambridge History of American Foreign Relations*, Vol. IV, Chapter 5, pp. 120-146.

Park Tae-gyun, *An Ally and Empire*, Chapter 4, pp. 149-235.

8. Normalization of relations between South Korea and Japan. The Vietnam War.

Questions: Why did South Korea and Japan normalize diplomatic relations in 1965? Was Park Chung Hee's strategy toward the US in the late 1960s successful?

Gregg Brazinsky, *Nation Building in South Korea*, Chapter 5, pp. 132-141.

Park Tae-gyun, *An Ally and Empire*, Chapters 5 and 6, pp. 237-302.

Park Tae-gyun, "Beyond the Myth," *Pacific Affairs* 82-1 (Spring 2009), pp. 93-110.

9. Nixon Doctrine, Sino-American détente, and South Korea

Question: How much influence did the US have on Park Chung Hee in the early to mid-1970s?

Park Tae-gyun, *An Ally and Empire*, Chapter 7, pp. 303-318.

John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*, Chapters 9 and 10, pp. 272-341.

Don Oberdorfer, *The Two Koreas: A Contemporary History* (Basic Books, 2001), Chapters 1-3, pp. 11-83.

Lee Chae-jin, *A Troubled Peace: U.S. Policy and the Two Koreas* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), Chapter 3, pp. 64-102.

10. Carter and Gwangju

Questions: What were the reasons for the US to acquiesce to Chun's usage of force against protests in Gwangju? How can you justify the US actions?

Don Oberdorfer, *The Two Koreas: A Contemporary History*, Chapters 4-5, pp. 84-138.

Park Tae-gyun, *An Ally and Empire*, Chapter 7, pp. 319-335.

Tim Shorrock, "Ex-leaders Go on Trial in Seoul," *Journal of Commerce*, (Feb 27, 1996); and "The Kwangju Uprising and US-Sanctioned Massacre" (June 2010).

George Katsiaficas, "Neoliberalism and the Gwangju Uprising," *Korea Policy Review*, Vol. II (2006).

11. The end of the Cold War and the first North Korea nuclear crisis.

Questions: How did the first North Korea nuclear crisis affect the relationship between the US and South Korea? Which side—the US or South Korea—was more responsible for the transformation?

Don Oberdorfer, *The Two Koreas: A Contemporary History*, Chapters 12-14, pp. 281-368.

Lee Chae-jin, *A Troubled Peace: U.S. Policy and the Two Koreas*, Chapters 4-5, pp. 136-209.

12. The 1997 Financial Crisis, 9/11 Terror, and transformation of the US-South Korea alliance.

Questions: Did the war on terror policy of the Bush administration strengthen or weaken the Korean-American relationship? What do the KORUS FTA negotiations say about Korea's position in the world economic structure?

John Lewis Gaddis, *Surprise, Security, and the American Experience* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2004), Chapters 4-5, pp. 69-118.

Lee Chae-jin, *A Troubled Peace: U.S. Policy and the Two Koreas*, Chapter 6, pp. 210-274.

Marcus Noland, "The Strategic Importance of US-Korea Economic Relations," *International Economics Policy Briefs* PB03-6 (May 2003).

William H. Cooper and Mark E. Manyin, "The Proposed South Korea – U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA)," CRS Report for Congress, August 2006.

13. The rise and fall of anti-Americanism.

Questions: What accounts for the rise in anti-American sentiment in Korea in the first decade of the 21st century? Then how would you explain the recent decline in anti-Americanism?

Kim Sunhyuk, "How to Deal with South Korea," *The Washington Quarterly* 30:2 (2007), pp. 71-82.

Gweon Yong-lib, "The Changing Perception of America in South Korea: Transition or Transformation?" *Korea Journal* 44:1 (Spring 2004), pp. 152-177.

Heon Joo Jung, "The Rise and Fall of Anti-American Sentiment in South Korea: Deconstructing Hegemonic Ideas and Threat Perception," *Asian Survey*, Vol. 50, No. 5 (2010), pp.946–964.

14. In search for the critical factors in Korean-American relations.

Questions: Which set of factors do you think has been determining the course of Korean-American relations—domestic politics in the US, domestic situation in South Korea, or the situation in the world and the region? Reflecting on the history of Korean-American relations, can we call South Korea a "model ally" of the US?

Wrap-up discussion

15. Presentations of research papers.