HSEA GU4030: Colonial and Post-Colonial Korea
Graduate/Undergraduate Seminar (4 points)
Fall 2016
Day/Time: Tuesdays 12:10pm-2:00pm
Location: Kent Hall 522C

Instructor: Charles Armstrong (Columbia University)
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 – 4:00 or by appointment

Course Description
This course examines the history of 20th-century Korea in the context of regional and global empires. Its conceptual focus will be on colonialism in its various aspects – political, economic, cultural, social, intellectual – and on whether and in what sense post-1945 Korea can be characterized as “post-colonial,” marked by its colonial past and its interaction with post-imperial “Great Powers.” The class format will be a seminar involving close reading of primary-source documents and recent scholarship.

Course Requirements
Undergraduate: Paper#1 (4-5 Pages)=20%; Paper#2 (6-7 Pages) =30%; Final exam (take-home, cumulative) =30%; Participation (attendance, in-class participation, in-class presentation, 3-4 paragraph weekly critical responses to assigned readings posted on Courseworks by 6:00 PM Mondays) = 20%.

Graduate: 15-20 pp. seminar paper =60%; Review essay = 20%; Participation (attendance, in-class participation, in-class presentation, 3-4 paragraph weekly critical responses to assigned readings posted on Courseworks by 6:00 PM Mondays) =20%.

The weekly critical response should include comments on issues raised by the assigned reading (you may address particular passages) as well as questions you want to raise in class. You are strongly encouraged to read the responses of your colleagues prior to class.

All students, whether individually or in pairs, will be required to give at least one 15-minute oral presentation on a given week’s readings and to lead the class discussion that day.

Since a major portion of this course will be conducted through in-class discussion, active reading and participation is a must. Three or more unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course. All written assignments for the course must be turned in by the due dates, and late papers will only be accepted under extraordinary circumstances such as illness or injury.

Plagiarism in any way, shape, or form is strictly prohibited. Students must adhere to the standards for academic integrity established by Columbia University. For more information, please refer to the “Columbia University Undergraduate Guide to Academic Integrity” (available online at http://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/integrity).
**Required Texts**
Available at Book Culture, [http://www.bookculture.com/](http://www.bookculture.com/) and on reserve at Starr Library

Henry Em, *The Great Enterprise: Sovereignty and Historiography in Modern Korea* (Duke University Press, 2013)

All other readings are available online in Courseworks under “Files & Resources.”

**Schedule of Topics and Readings**

**Part I: A World of Empires**

**Week 1 (09/06): Introduction: Coloniality/Post-Coloniality**

**Week 2 (09/13): Korea Between Empires**
“Treaty of Shimonoseki” (1895)
“President William McKinley’s Benevolent Assimilation Proclamation” (1898)
“Taft-Katsura Agreement” (1905)
Yi In-jik, *Tears of Blood* (1906), pp. 159-189 (episodes 1-25)

**Week 3 (09/20): Sovereignty and Its Loss**
Yi In-jik, *Tears of Blood* (1906), pp. 189-221 (episodes 26-50)
Alexis Dudden, “Illegal Korea,” in *Japan’s Colonization of Korea: Discourse and Power* (University of Hawaii Press, 2005), pp. 1 – 26
Part II: Colonial Modernities

Week 4 (09/27) Liberalism and Self-Determination
Yi Kwang-su, “On National Reconstruction” (1922)
Son Pyōng-hŭi and others, “Declaration of Independence” (1919)
Mohandas K. Gandhi, “Call for Non-Violent Resistance” (1914)

Week 5 (10/04): Socialism and Internationalism
“Slogans of the Korean Communist Party” (1925)
Sin Pae-gu, “Urging the Vanguard of Social Movements to Come Forward” (1922)
Paek Nam-un, “The History of Korean Society and Economy” (1933)

Week 6 (10/11): Settlement and Unsettlement
Jun Uchida, Brokers of Empire: Japanese Settler Colonialism in Korea, 1876-1945 (Harvard East Asian Monographs, 2011)

Week 7 (10/18) Modern Girl/New Woman

Week 8 (10/25): Imperial Consumption and Colonial Urbanism
Yi Sang, “Wings” (1937)

Paper#1 Due

Week 9 (11/01): The Wartime Colony
Todd Henry, Assimilating Seoul, pp. 168-203
Week 10 (11/08): ELECTION DAY HOLIDAY (no class)

Part III: The Postcolony

Week 11 (11/15): Liberation/Decolonization/Revolution
Chon Kwangyong, “Kapitan Ri” (1962)

Week 12 (11/22): The Korean War
Dong-Choon Kim, The Unending Korean War: A Social History (Tamal Vista, 2009), excerpts

Week 13 (11/29): Nation Re-building

Week 14 (12/06): Post-postcoloniality?
Henry Em, The Great Enterprise, pp. 138 – 160

Paper#2 Due

Final Exam: Due 12/19 by 5:00 PM. Please send the completed exam as a Word file to the Assignments tab on Courseworks.

Seminar Paper (for graduate students): Due 12/19 by 5:00 PM, as a Word attachment emailed directly to the instructor.