Description: The Korean Peninsula is often called the “last outpost of the Cold War” because of its continued division and the mutual hostility between its “communist” and “democratic” halves. Yet nearly thirty years after the putative end of the global Cold War, such a description seems increasingly inadequate. The division of Korea and the establishment of two separate states in the late 1940s may have been (in part) a product of the Cold War, but the origins of Korean division had indigenous and complex roots preceding the Cold War, and Korea’s North-South conflict has developed a distinctive dynamic independent of, and long outlasting, the Cold War. In short, “Korea’s Cold War” is connected with but not identical to the Cold War as commonly understood. This course considers the impact of the Cold War on Korea and vice-versa, including the distinctive aspects of the Cold War in Asia generally, with a temporal focus extending back into the Japanese colonial period and forward to the present. The course goes beyond the usual Cold War themes of ideological and military conflict to consider migration, transnational adoption, film and literary representations, and art and propaganda.

Requirements:

1. Attendance and active class participation (10%).
2. A written response to each week’s readings on the Courseworks website, due by the Tuesday before class (around 250 – 300 words would be good) (10%)
3. Leading at least one class discussion, including posting of Courseworks questions for that week, due by the Monday night before the seminar. (15%)
4. Three “reaction papers” of 3 – 5 pages (10% each = 30%), due at regular intervals through the semester.
5. Final summary paper, 15 – 20 pages, analyzing at least three texts (35%) due at the end of the semester.

Required Readings:
The following books are available for purchase at Book Culture, 536 West 112th Street, and on reserve in C.V. Starr East Asian Library, Kent Hall. All other books as well as articles and book excerpts will be in pdf format on Courseworks under Syllabus. Some of the recommended books will also be available at Book Culture.

Wada Haruki, The Korean War: An International History
Charles R. Kim, Youth For Nation: Culture and Protest in Cold War South Korea
Suk-young Kim, Illusive Utopia: Theatre, Film, and Everyday Performance in North Korea
Arissa Oh, To Save the Children of Korea: The Cold War Origins of Transnational Adoption
Tessa Morris-Suzuki, Exodus to North Korea: Shadows from Japan’s Cold War
Theodore Q. Hughes, Literature and Film in Cold War South Korea: Freedom’s Frontier
Han Kang, Human Acts: A Novel
WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS

Part 1: The Cold War in Asia and the World

Week 1. Sept. 7. The Cold War in Asian Context


Heonik Kwon, The Other Cold War (Columbia University Press, 2010), pp. 1 - 11

Kuan-Hsing Chen, “De-Cold War: The Im/Possibility of ‘Great Reconciliation,’” from Asia as Method: Toward De-Imperialization (Duke University Press, 2010)


Recommended readings:
Odd Arne Westad, The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times (Cambridge University Press, 2007)
Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, ed. The Cold War in East Asia, 1945 – 1991 (Stanford 2011)
Matthew Connelly, “Taking Off the Cold War Lens: Visions of North-South Conflict during the Algerian War,” American Historical Review vol. 105, no. 3 (June 2000)


Nym Wales and Kim San, Song of Ariran: A Korean Communist in the Chinese Revolution (1941) (excerpts)

Recommended Reading:

Week 3. Sep. 21. Cold War and Division

Wada Haruki, The Korean War: An International History, preface, ch. 1
Kim Dong-Choon, The Unending Korean War: A Social History, ch. 1 – 2

Recommended readings:
Week 4. Sep. 28. (Post-)Colonialism and Cold War Cultures

Theodore Hughes, *Literature and Film in Cold War South Korea*, ch. 1 and 2, pp. 1 – 90

Recommended readings:


Week 5. Oct. 5. The Korean War as International History

Wada Haruki, *The Korean War: An International History* (finish)

Recommended readings:

Reaction Paper #1: To what extent was the Korean War of 1950 – 1953 a product of international forces, indigenous Korean forces, or some combination of the two? Would you call the Korean War a civil war? Why or why not? (Due Monday, Oct. 9)

Part 2: Making Nations

Week 6. Oct. 12. Cultures of Protest in South Korea

Charles Kim, *Youth For Nation* (entire)

Recommended readings:


Kim Il Sung writings, TBA
Park Chung Hee writings, TBA

Recommended readings:
Week 8: Oct. 26. Performing the Nation in North Korea

Suk-young Kim, Illusive Utopia (entire)

Recommended readings:

Week 9. Nov. 2. Diasporas: “Repatriation” to North Korea

Tessa Morris-Suzuki, Exodus to North Korea (entire)

Recommended readings:
John Lie, Zainichi (Koreans in Japan): Diasporic Nationalism and Postcolonial Identity (University of California, 2008)
Sonia Ryang, Diaspora without Homeland: Koreans in Japan (University of California, 2009)

Week 10. Nov. 9. Diasporas: Transnational Adoption to America

Arissa Oh, To Save the Children of Korea (entire)

Recommended readings:

Reaction paper #2: How did the Cold War, including but not limited to the division of Korea, complicate the notion of a Korean “homeland”? (Due Monday, Nov. 13)

Part 3: Representing Cold War Korea in Film and Literature

Week 11. Nov. 16. Visual Culture

Hughes, Literature and Film in Cold War South Korea (finish)

Recommended readings:
Steven Chung, Split Screen Korea: Shin Sang-ok and Postwar Cinema (University of Minnesota Press, 2014)

Week 12. Nov. 23. THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 13. Nov. 30. Representing Gwangju

Gi-Wook Shin, “Introduction,” from Shin and Hwang, Contentious Kwangju
Han Kang, Human Acts (entire)
Recommended readings:
Jae-Eui Lee et al, *Kwangju Diary: Beyond Death, Beyond the Darkness of the Age* (UCLA 1999)
Linda S. Lewis, *Laying Claim to the Memory of May: A Look Back at the 1980 Kwangju Uprising* (University of Hawai`i Press, 2002)

**Week 14. Dec. 7. Final Discussion: What is/was Korea’s Cold War?**

Reaction paper #3: literature and history: literary works as a resource for history (Due Monday, Dec. 11)

**MONDAY, DEC. 18, 5:00 PM: FINAL PAPERS DUE**
Hard copy delivered to the History Department mailroom (across from 413 Fayerweather)
AND electronic copy by attachment to cra10@columbia.edu