I. Course Description:  
This is a seminar course in the history of Korea, focusing on its modern part. You will be able to study the major issues in the creation of the Korean nation, the national identity, the growth of its unique social and political structure, and the technological and industrial growth in the modern period. The primary subjects in the seminar include premodern development of the Korean nation and culture, the Japanese colonial era, the liberation after World War II, the Korean War, and the period after the mid-twentieth century when Koreans experienced the shock of their rapid industrialization and urbanization. You will learn the dynamics of Korean history which placed the country in the changing global landscape in the contemporary world.

II. Course Design:  
There will be a three-hour seminar each week. For the first 40 minutes, the professor will introduce the day’s main subjects with certain points for further thinking. Then, some students will present their analysis of movies relevant to the week’s theme. The following hours will be used for group discussion based on the selected pre-class questions. Each group, before the end of the seminar, will present their discussion in front of other students. The result of the discussion should be posted in NTULearn.

III. Course Schedule and Readings:  
The Course Readings:  
There are two kinds of readings, the required and the optional. The required readings are the
articles or book chapters that you must finish before coming to the class. The optional readings are those you are encouraged to read if you are particularly interested in a subject. These readings can be selectively used for writing your two essay assignments. All the book chapters or journal articles in the required list are available for downloading in the course portal in NTULearn. Most of the books or book chapters in the optional list are stored in the NTU (HSS) or NIE libraries’ reserve collection. Some articles among them can be downloaded from the course portal in NTULearn. Any missing ones are available in the professor’s office.

The Historical Films for the Course:
South Korea has developed a strong movie industry, which is now internationally renowned. One crucial product of this prospering industry is its historical films. Although some of these films have been criticized for their misleading interpretations, there are a number of more serious movies that have been acclaimed for their novel perspectives and deep historical insight. I think that watching these films can be a good way to learn history and its varied standpoints, especially in relation to Korea’s contemporary problems. Moreover, many of the historical films, with good acting, realistic costume, and nuanced narrative, are quite fun to watch! For other classic movies produced from the 1940s to the 1990s, visit the Korean Classic Film’s Youtube page: https://www.youtube.com/user/KoreanFilm/videos

1. Introduction & Major Questions [14 August]
Required Readings:

2. Late Chosŏn Korea and the Mirage of Modernity [21 August]
Required Readings:

3. Civil Society in Chosŏn Dynasty? [28 August]
Required Readings:

4. Problems on Colonial Modernity [4 September]
Required Readings:


Movies: Blue Swallow (Cheong Yeon, 2005), YMCA Baseball Team (2002) [both in NTU lib]

5. War, Manchuria, and the Bitter Memories of Modernity [11 September]

Required Reading:
- Robinson, Korea’s Twentieth Century Odyssey, pp. 76-99.

Movies: Dongju: The Portrait of a Poet (2016) [in NTU lib / the prof’s collection]

6. Liberation and Conflicts [18 September]

Required Readings:
- Cumings, Korea’s Place in the Sun, pp. 185-236.

Movies: The Tae Baek Mountains (1994) [in youtube], North Korean Partisan in South Korea (1990) [in youtube]


Required Readings:

Movies: Taegukgi (2004), Operation Chromite (2016) [both in NTU lib]

8. Shaping Culture and Politics in the North [9 October]

Required Readings:

9. Park Chung Hee and His Contested Legacy [16 October]
Required Readings:
- Robinson, *Korea’s Twentieth Century Odyssey*, pp. 121-140.

10. Making Korean Democracy [23 October]
Required Readings:
- Robinson, *Korea’s Twentieth Century Odyssey*, pp. 140-145, 167-178
- Brazinsky, *Nation Building in South Korea*, 41-70, 223-250.
Movies: *Peppermint Candy* (1999), *Oraedoen Chŏngwŏn* (Old Garden, 2007), [these two in NTU lib], *1987: When the Day Comes* (2017) [in prof’s collection]

11. Historical Memories and Their Reinvention [30 October]
Required Readings:

12. Religion and Religious Culture in Contemporary Society [6 November]
Required Readings:

Required Readings:
VI. Evaluation:

1. Essay Based on Oral History Records (30%, due by 5 October)
You should write an essay about Korea’s colonial past, using the collection of oral history published as Under the Black Umbrella: Voices from Colonial Korea, 1910-1945 (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2001).


You can use any of the articles in this book, available as e-book from NTU library. Oral histories are valuable historical sources that enable us to understand the aspects of histories unrecorded in published or archived documents. Using at least one article in Under the Black Umbrella, alongside 2 secondary sources in the syllabus, students must write an original essay on the everyday lives in the Korean peninsula under the Japanese rule. The word number should be about 1,800 (excluding bibliography and footnotes). The essay should be submitted to the course’s NTULearn website in the form of the MS word file (a pdf file is not recommended).

2. Encyclopedia Entry (25%; due by 21 November 2019)
You should submit a piece of an encyclopedia entry on Korean history. The professor will give a “word,” about which you must write a historical article that can be published in a course encyclopedia. The word count should be about 1,500, and you must cite at least 2 readings in the syllabus. You can cite anything outside of the syllabus, but no internet articles (except for online academic journals and books) may be cited. At the end of the semester, the professor will “publish” your entry as a part of our “encyclopedia.” You should submit your entry to the course’s NTULearn website. Although there is no restriction on the file format of the main submission, the text file must be created with the MS word program.

3. Cinema Analysis (15%)
You should watch a movie on Korea and present your findings in front of the class audience. The movie should be chosen among those listed in the syllabus. (You may choose one in the Korean Film Archive’s collection). Many of them are found in the NTU libraries and NTULearn. If you cannot find any copy there, the professor has one, or can be found in youtube. (If you want to choose a different movie, you must get prior permission from the professor.) The presentation must not be a summary of the movie’s story or plot, although the relevant part in the story should be very briefly explained. It ought to include how the movie pertains to the week’s themes, such as colonial modernity, ideological confrontation, or gender problems in contemporary society. It is also possible that you investigate the time when the movie was filmed rather than the time it aimed to depict. The context of the time of its production might let us know much more than the historical situation it attempts to describe. The presentation should not be more than 10 minutes, and you can show a short clip of the movie. This clip should not contain scenes inappropriate for classroom.
3. Pre-Class Questions: (10%)
After finishing the required readings for each week, you must submit a question for discussion during the seminar. The question is to be uploaded in the course portal in NTULearn before each Tuesday evening (6 pm). These questions will be graded according to their relevance, novelty, and ingenuity.

4. Group Discussion Reports in NTULearn: (10%)
After the seminar, each group—which you can create by yourselves but cannot be changed after the add/drop period—should submit a short report of discussion to NTULearn after the end of the class. This report reflects the outcome of the class members’ conversation about the discussion question. The professor’s evaluation will be added as a comment, about which you can ask further questions. In each report, there must be a list of participating members.

5. Participation and Attendance in the Seminar: (10%)
Your activity and attendance is monitored in every seminar and will be used in the final evaluation. Please try to attend every class and be sure to be proactive during the discussion.

V. Late Submission:
There will be a penalty to a paper submitted after the deadline. The extent of penalty will vary depending on the general distribution of your marks in the entire class. But late submission can be excused according to the professor’s understanding of your circumstances.

VI. Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is a serious academic misconduct and may endanger a student’s career in a highly severe way. It is done intentionally or unintentionally by using another person’s ideas and writings without any proper citation and/or quotation marks. Paraphrasing is an act of rewriting other people’s ideas or arguments using your own words. While this is an acceptable practice in most cases, it can be an issue if you do not indicate that the ideas have come from another person’s work. If you are not sure about how you should do regarding these issues, please do cite the referred sources in footnotes/endnotes and use the quotation marks around the terms you did not invent. Even if a student cited a source, direct quotation without quotation marks may be a problem, too. If any plagiarized sentence or paragraph is detected, the grade will be reduced to zero and the student’s name will be reported to the school.

VII. Policy on Missing Classes:
In general, you are encouraged to attend all seminars. However, you may miss a few, if there is a good reason, such as illness, required university activity, or family emergency. In such cases, you can claim for the credit of class attendance, only if you submit a summary of the week’s readings along with the documentary evidence on the reasons of absence.

VIII. List of Optional Readings:
General:
- Bruce Cumings, Korea’s Place in the Sun: A Modern History (New York: Norton, 2005) [Read the other chapters].

Chosŏn Korea:

**Nation and Social Darwinism in the Age of Crisis:**

**Colonial Korea:**
Gi-Wook Shin and Michael Robinson (eds.), *Colonial Modernity in Korea* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1999) [Read the other chapters; chapter 5 by Park is uploaded].

**Korean War:**
North Korea:

Park Chung Hee Era:
“South Koreans Feel Like Chicken Tonight after President’s Removal,” *The Guardian* (10 March 2017).

Science and Technology:
Sungook Hong, “The Relationship between Science and Technology in Korea from the 1960s to the Present Day: A Historical and Reflective Perspective,” *East Asian Science,*


**Democracy, Liberalization, and Civil Society:**


**Religions and Their Cultures:**


**Questions on Women and Gender:**


**Contemporary Culture:**


Kyung Hyun Kim and Younglim Choe (eds.), *The Korean Popular Culture Reader* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2014) [Chapter 15 by Federenko is uploaded].


Shannon Schweitzer, “‘Game of Thrones,’ Pokémon, and Dabbing: The Crazy Ways South Koreans Watched the Election” *Foreign Policy* (9 May 2017).