CSI 141 From Sugar Plantations to "Gangnam Style": Transnational History of Korean Americans

Spring 2017
RWK 202
Tu 12:30-3:20

Professor Lili Kim
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Office hours: T 5-6, Th 1:30-3:30 or by appointment
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Course description:

This course examines the transnational history of Koreans in the United States and beyond beginning in 1903 when the first-wave of Koreans arrived in Hawai'i as sugar plantation laborers. We will examine the history of Korean immigration to the United States in the context of larger global labor migrations. The topics we will consider include racialization of Korean immigrants against the backdrop of Anti-Asian movement in California, Japanese colonization of Korea and its impact on the development of Korean American nationalism, changing dynamics of gender and family relations in Korean American communities, the Korean War and the legacies of U.S. militarism in Korea, the post-1965 "new" wave of Korean immigrants, Asian American movement, Sa-I-Gu (the 1992 Los Angeles Koreatown racial unrest), the myth of model minority, and the birth of "Korean cool" through K-pop. The focus will be on the transnational linkages between Korea and the United States and the connections between U.S. foreign policies and domestic issues that influenced the lives and experiences of Korean Americans. Paying particular attention to personal narratives through Korean American autobiographical and biographical writing, art, novels, and films, we will examine issues of historical imagination, empathy, and agency.

This is a blended learning course in which we will try to incorporate different online tools and “flipped classroom” strategies to help us understand, engage with, and collaborate on the course material and assignments.

Course Requirements:

Attendance is mandatory, as is your active and informed participation in class. Please be on time and come to class having done the reading and ready to discuss your thoughts on them. This is a community of learning and sharing; please take seriously your part and responsibility in the community.

Written work must be turned in on time and a hard copy must be turned in. Late work will not be accepted unless you have made a PRIOR arrangement with me. I am sympathetic to the fact that you are busy college students and that you have many demands. However, learning to manage your time is an important skill you will learn in college, and I fully expect that you will plan ahead to meet deadlines.
There are no incompletes given for this course. You will not receive an evaluation if your final portfolio is not received on time and if you have more than 3 unexcused absences.

Accommodating Learning Differences: If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you have disability-related information to share with me that may impact your performance or participation in this course, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

If you already have approved accommodations, please go to The Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (OARS) in CASA/Lemelson Building to pick up Letters of Accommodation to facilitate a proactive discussion about how your accommodations will best apply to this course.

If you have not done so, students with documented disabilities who need to utilize accommodations are encouraged to contact OARS to formally request accommodations as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. OARS can be found online at www.OARS.hampshire.edu or contacted via email: Accessibility@hampshire.edu, via phone: 413.559.5498, or in person: Lemelson Building.

Course assignments:

* 3-page essay on Mary Paik Lee’s *Quiet Odyssey*

* presentation on K-pop

*primary source group annotation assignment: We will have an online archive of Korean sources translated into English. Utilizing online tools, we will analyze and annotate primary sources, and try to contextualize our sources.

* Timeline group project: Working together as a class, we will create a timeline of Korean immigration to the United States and Latin America.

* oral history project: We will individually conduct an oral history with a Korean immigrant/American and will present their life stories in a format that you choose. It can be a paper, an art project, a graphic novel, a performance, or you can choose another medium in consultation with me. You will be presenting your final project at the end of the semester.

* Final oral history project presentation

Required Texts:

These books are available for purchase at the Hampshire College Bookstore.


Course schedule:

Week 1

Tuesday 31 January

Introduction: Our Immigrant Roots

What are our connections to the history immigration to the United States? How do we tell that history? Where do personal narratives fit into the larger history of immigration to the United States?

Film: *Arirang* (2003)

Week 2

Tuesday 7 February

Korean picture brides and Korean independence movement


Week 3

Tuesday 14 February

Koreans as “Enemy Aliens” on the Homefront during World War II

Attend:

"The Good War" and Asian Americans: Chinese, Koreans, Filipinos, and Japanese in the United States

Wednesday 15 February
4-6pm
Paino Lecture, Beneski
Amherst College

Panelists:

Greg Robinson, Professor of History, l'Universite du Quebec A Montreal
Franklin Odo, John J. McCloy Visiting Professor of History, Amherst College
Lili M. Kim, Associate Professor of History and Global Migrations, Hampshire College
K. Scott Wong, Charles R. Keller Professor of History, Williams College
Richard Chu, Five College Associate Professor of History, UMass Amherst

This year, 2017, marks the 75th anniversary of Franklin Roosevelt’s signing of Executive Order 9066 authorizing the forced removal and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans. That experience and the heroic military exploits of Japanese Americans, some of whom served even as their families remained behind barbed wire enclosures have been widely studied but the War involved other major Asian American groups as well, in fascinating and complex ways. This panel of scholars will discuss the War and its impact upon these communities as well as the ways in which members participated both on battlefields and on the home front. There will be a Q&A session following the presentations.

Week 4

Tuesday 21 February

Becoming Korean American


First essay assignment due in class

Week 5

Tuesday 28 February
U.S. Immigration history as a History of U.S. Imperialism

Guest Speaker: Professor Mary Renda, Mt. Holyoke College

*Readings TBA by Professor Renda

*Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, chapter 3, pp.139-184.

Week 6

Tuesday 7 March

Oral History Workshop

Guest Speaker: Professor Laura Lovett, UMass Amherst

*Valley Women’s History Collaborative website: [www.vwhc.org](http://www.vwhc.org)


*Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, chapter 4, pp.185-236.

Timeline workshop with Alana Kumbier

Week 7

Tuesday 14 March

Spring break – no class

Week 8

Tuesday 21 March

The trauma of the Korean War and Its Legacies
*Still Present Pasts: Korean Americans and the “Forgotten War” website:
www.stillpresentpasts.org


*Arissa Oh, *To Save the Children of Korea: The Cold War Origins of International Adoption*

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

Film: *Memory of Forgotten War* (2013)

Week 9

Tuesday 28 March

Koreatown and the Civil Unrest in Los Angeles

Annotation workshop with Alana Kumbier


*Bruce Cumings, *Korea’s Place in the Sun*, chapter 6, pp.299-341.

Film: *Sa-I-Gu* (1993)

Week 10

Tuesday 4 April

Transnational Immigration History: Koreans in Argentina and Their Remigration to the United States

*Calvin Sims, “Buenos Aires Journal: Don’t Cry, This Land is Rich in Kims and Lees” NYTimes (November 15, 1995)


*Interview with Ambassador Choo Jong-Youn, “Golden Anniversary of Korean Immigration to Argentina Marked This Year,” *Buenos Aires Herald* (Sunday, May 3, 2015).


**Bruce Cumings, *Korea’s Place in the Sun*, chapter 7, pp.342-403.

Group primary source annotations

Guest Speaker: Professor Jennifer Guglielmo, Smith College

Readings TBA by Professor Guglielmo

Week 11

Tuesday 11 April

The Rise of K-pop and Globalization of Korean Culture

*Euny Hong, *The Birth of Korean Cool: How One Nation is Conquering World Through Pop Culture*

*K-pop presentations

Week 12

Tuesday 18 April

Transgression of boundaries

*“The Model Minority is Losing Patience”: *The Economist* (October 3, 2015).

Margaret Cho, *I’m the One That I Want* (2001)

Week 13

Tuesday 25 April

Peer review workshop on oral history project
Week 14

Tuesday 2 May

Student presentations