

PLS195/SOC120

Asian Community: Conflict and Reconciliation

Fall 2018 | MW 17:30–18:45 | Room 8.154

Hoyoun Koh, PhD

- ✉ Email: ho.koh@nu.edu.kz
- 🕒 Office hours: MW 10:00-12:00
- 🏠 Office: 8.507A

Course Description

The history of Asia in the 20th century has experienced numerous conflicts including wars and internal conflicts. Even after decades of time, the wounds of conflicts from the last century remain strong in the memories and emotions of Asian countries and people. In this course we will address the issue of how past events affect the present and the future in the context of International Relations. For this purpose, we will apply philosophical arguments on forgiveness and apology to politics. The first part of the course focuses on theories of political apologies and forgiveness. We read texts of Derrida and other thinkers, along with IR literature. The rest of the course looks at specific cases of conflict and reconciliation among Asian countries through the lens of forgiveness and apology. Cases to be discussed in the class include war crimes (comfort women, civilian massacre), history issues (history textbook controversies), and security (social and political consequences of military confrontation).

The basic mode of the course is lecture, but students will have opportunities to engage in intellectual discussion with scholars and experts from the outside of NU. Invited speakers will include scholars, journalists, and activists in specific areas of reconciliation. After a guest lecture, we will have an in-class discussion session, so that students can deepen their understanding and knowledge of the topic covered.

Course Learning Objectives (CLOs)

By the end of this course, student will be able to:

- Understand and demonstrate knowledge of political apologies and forgiveness in the subfield of IR (PLO 1)
- Develop a critical evaluation of ongoing and/or past events and policies of reconciliation (PLO 2)
- Use appropriate methods of collecting, organizing and interpreting evidence for their original arguments (PLO 4, 6)
- Write their own evidence-based arguments (PLO 3)
- Listen to and be tolerant of different ideas (PLO 5)

Textbooks

This course requires serious readings about both theoretical and empirical works on history, politics, and diplomacy of East Asia. Reading assignments will be drawn from following books.

- ❖ Dieser, P.E. (2001) *Political Forgiveness*, Cornell University Press (ISBN: 978-0801438103).
- ❖ Lind, J.M. (2008) *Sorry States*, Cornell University Press (ISBN: 978-0801476280).
- ❖ Philpott, D. (2012) *Just and Unjust Peace: An Ethic of Political Reconciliation*, Oxford University Press (ISBN: 978-0199827565).
- ❖ Derrida, J. (2001) *On Cosmopolitanism and Forgiveness* (e-book), Routledge (ISBN: 0-203165713).

There will be articles from academic journals for each week's recommended and required readings. Students must complete reading assignments before the class. The instructor may ask questions or give a pop quiz to check students' completion of assignments (graded for participation score).

This course utilizes non-textual material as an important source of learning. In below are listed a few examples of films to be discussed in the class. Students should be familiar with the contents of those films before the class.

- ❖ Kang, Je-kyu. (2004) "Tae Guk Gi: The Brotherhood of War," screenplayed by Ji-hoon Han. A film (drama) on the Korean War.
- ❖ Goodman, Barak (2010) "My Lai" A film (documentary) on the US killing of civilians during the Vietnam War.
- ❖ Cho, Jung-rae (2016) "Gwi-hyang: Spirits' Homecoming" A film (drama) on comfort women.
- ❖ Jolie, Angelina. (2017) "First They Killed My Father," screenplayed by Angelina Jolie and Loung Ung. A film on the Khmer Rouge Massacre.

Course Requirements

Participation (10%) This includes both attendance and participation in class discussion. Attendance rate below 80% will automatically result in a course failure. A 100% attendance will be awarded by +1 point to the final grade (not letter grade).

Exams (30%) There will be three exams throughout the course. The first exam is a take-home exam (week 5), in which students answer questions from readings and lectures. The second exam is an in-class test, scheduled in week 11. The second exam will cover readings and lectures from week 6 to 10. The third exam is a cumulative in-class exam. The final exam will be scheduled by the University. Details of each exam will be given in the class.

Short essays (30%) There will be a short essay assignment after each guest lecture. Each essay should discuss the content of a guest lecture and show the student's own critique and/or interpretation of it. There will be at least two guest lectures in this course. Details will be given in the class.

A term paper (20%) This course requires a term paper. Two students will form a team and submit a final draft of the term paper. The topic of a paper must be discussed and approved by the instructor by week 4. The first draft is due in week 9. The first draft will not be graded, but commented. The final draft is due in week 13 (7 November).

Mini conference (10%) In week 14, students present their original works (a term paper) at a mini conference. Details about the conference will be announced in the class (grading rubric is available on Moodle).

Grading Policy

Grading scale The final grade is determined by the student's overall performance of all course requirements in absolute terms, not relative. Following the University's grading scale, a student's final grade will be given by taking the percentage of points earned by the students as follows:

Participation	10%		A	95-100	A⁻	90-94.9	
Exams	30%	B⁺	85-89.9	B	80-84.9	B⁻	75-79.9
Short essays	30%	C⁺	70-74.9	C	65-69.9	C⁻	60-64.9
A term paper	20%	D⁺	55-59.9	D	50-54.9		
Mini conference	10%	F	<50				

Late submission I accept late submissions *only with penalties and some conditions*. A late submission penalty is 10 points deduction from the baseline score for each day (or part of a day). If you turn in your assignment 2 days late, the highest point you can receive is 80%. Late submission is accepted up to three days: you *cannot* submit an assignment after three days passed the due.

Plagiarism This will never be tolerated. Students must be familiarized with the student code of conduct and the university regulations about academic misconduct. If you don't agree with the penalty imposed by the instructor, you can appeal to the SHSS Disciplinary Committee. See the Academic Integrity Policy for more information.

Re-grading Students can request re-grading of their assignment within one week after it is returned. Such a request must be made by a *written* request and submitted in person (requests via email are not accepted) with a full description of reasons for re-grading. Note that the entire of the requested assignment, not a specific part(s), will be re-graded and that the new grade may be lower than the original one. There will be no re-grading of once re-graded assignments.

*** Special note for juniors and seniors: since this course is designed as 100 level, a higher expectation is applied to the 3rd and 4th year students.**

Academic Integrity Policy

Official documents Students must become familiarized with the NU Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures, which is the official document outlining policies and procedures about academic misconduct. Here are links to important NU policies:

- Academic policies and procedures for undergraduate programs (English/Russian).
- Student code of conduct and disciplinary procedures (English/Russian).
- Undergraduate attendance policy and procedures (English).

Fraud This refers to any attempts to deceive the student's original status of works and/or efforts, including cheating during any types of tests, forgery of documents, and fake attendance. Punishment for fraud and cheating is as follows:

- **Fraud check-in** will result in a zero point for the student's entire attendance score after one class-wise warning.
- **Cheating** refers to a use and/or a suspected use of unauthorized assistance or an intentional noncompliance with in-class test rules. For instance, chatting with a classmate also constitutes an act of cheating, regardless of the content of the conversation.
- **Forgery** is a serious crime. This may result in a police investigation. If a forgery or an attempt of forgery is found, I have to report to the authority to prevent further consequences. This will result in a course failure and a possible expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism This is a crime. A plagiarism is defined as "an act of using someone else's ideas or words as if they were your own without appropriate acknowledgement or quotation marks." Following the NU guidelines and the Student Code of Conduct, I use three categories of punishment.

- **Category A** is to be led when minor plagiarism is suspected (e.g. one paragraph, or 3-4 consecutive sentences). For category A, the student will get zero point for that assignment.
- **Category B** is to be led when a significant amount of the student's assignment/work is suspected to be plagiarized (e.g. one page, or more than two paragraphs). For category B, the student will fail this course and possible disciplinary actions (e.g. no stipend till the end of next semester) will be enforced by the University.
- **Category C** is to be filed when the entire work of the students is suspected. For this type of misconduct, the student may be expelled from the University.

Attitude Students are responsible for their behavior as a responsible citizen and member of NU community. Use your common sense before you act to judge if your action to be taken is appropriate. I expect all student in this course will follow basic rules as illustrated in below, but not limited to. A serious violation of any of those will result in a disciplinary action.

- The official language of teaching/learning is English in this class.
- Students must show proper respect to each other.
- Physical and/or verbal violence is never tolerated under any circumstances.
- Both the instructor and students should comply to course policies as well as the University regulations

👁 Attendance Policy

Attendance The instructor will take attendance on a random basis. There is no ‘late check-in’ or ‘tardy.’ If you show up five minutes after the attendance is taken, you are considered as *absent*.

Excused absence Absence is excused only for reasons specified in below. Students are responsible for providing proper documentations and notification. If proper documentations are not provided, it will not be excused.

- Medical excuses (students’ own illness) - A proper medical note is required. It must be submitted through the student services within two weeks from the (last) date of absence. Otherwise, absence will not be excused.
- University events - The student must notify me of any preplanned activities imposed by the NU or other equivalent entities, *excluding* works and internship. Such notices must be delivered to and cleared by me at least one week prior to the date of absence.
- Family emergencies - In cases of *accidents* that have direct influence on the student’s immediate family member(s) or co-residing member(s), the student’s absence will be excused only after proper documents are provided through the student services.
- Other occasions (e.g. family gatherings, wedding ceremonies, vacations) will *not* be excused.

Minimum attendance rate If a student’s attendance rate is below *80%*, the student will *automatically fail* this course. Excused absences are not counted for computing the attendance rate.

Check-in fraud If there is an evidence of fake check-in or a suspicious record of fraud, your attempt to cheat will be punished of an academic misconduct. See the *Academic Integrity Policy* for further information.

Other Policies

Technologies in class The use of following items are *prohibited* during the class, unless told otherwise: cellphones, tablets, laptops, and other sound-producing devices. Use pens and notebooks for note taking, which indeed enhances a long-term learning process. Due to copyright issues, *never* take photos of a guest speaker's slide.

Communications If you need to meet the instructor or the TA, you can visit during office hours. You are not allowed to walk in offices if it's not office hour. If necessary, you can make an appointment with the instructor. All appointment must be made through email, not verbally.

Assistance for physical/mental needs If a student needs a special attention due to his/her own physical or mental conditions, the student is responsible for notifying the instructor in the beginning of the semester. If necessary, the instructor can demand official documentation on the student's condition. Upon such requests, the student should provide appropriate records/proofs of the condition. If not provided, the requests may not be considered at all.

Changes to syllabus The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus. Any changes will be communicated in class and via Moodle.

Course Schedule

Course schedules are subject to change. Any changes will be notified at least one week prior to the original schedule. All assigned readings are available on Moodle. Students must complete reading assignments (★: required, ☆: recommended).

Week 1. Introduction (13-15 Aug.)

- ☆ Farrell, H. 2010. "Good writing in political science: an undergraduate student's short illustrated primer," *unpublished paper*
- ☆ Johnston 2012. "What does East Asia tell us about IR theory?" *Annual Review of Political Science*, 15:53-78.

Week 2. The Paradox of Forgiveness (20-22 Aug.)

- ★ Derrida (2001), Part 2 "On forgiveness"
- ☆ Zaibert, L. 2009. "The paradox of forgiveness," *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 6: 365-93.
- ☆ Newberry, P. 2004. "The three dimensions of forgiveness," *Philosophy in the Contemporary World* 11(2):73-9.

Week 3. Political Forgiveness and International Politics (27-29 Aug.)

- ★ Digeser (2001), chapters 1 and 3.
- ☆ Digeser, P.E. 2004. "Forgiveness, the unforgivable and international relations," *International Relations*, 18(4):480-97.

Week 4. Apologies in International Politics (3-5 Sep.)

- ★ Lind (2010), chapters 1, 4 and conclusion.
- ☆ Weyeneth, R.R. 2001. "The power of apology and the process of historical reconciliation," *The Public Historian*, 23(3):9-38.
- ☆ Corntassel, J. and Holder, C. 2008. "Who's sorry now? Government apologies, truth commissions, and indigenous self-determination in Australia, Canada, Guatemala, and Peru," *Human Rights Review*, 9(4):465-89.
- ☆ Löwenheim, N. 2009. "A haunted past: requesting forgiveness for wrongdoing in International Relations," *Review of International Studies* 35(3):531-55.

Week 5. Conflicts in East Asia (10-12 Sep.)

- ★ Benvenuti, A. 2015. "The international relations of East Asia from a historical perspective" in Tan, A.T. ed. *Security and Conflict in East Asia* (New York, NY: Routledge).
- ★ Liu, J.H. and Atsumi, T. 2008. "Historical conflict and resolution between Japan and China: Developing and applying a narrative theory of history and identity" in Sugiman, T., Gergen, K.J., Wagner, W., and Yamada, Y. eds. *Meaning in Action: Constructions, Narratives and Representations* (Japan: Springer).

Exam 1 (12 Sep.)

- A take-home exam on Moodle.
- Exam covers all materials from week 1 through 5.
- Exam opens at 17:30 (Wednesday) and closes at 17:30 (Thursday)
- At least 60% to pass (highest score in two attempts)
- No make-up or extension

Week 6. South Korea's Vietnam War: Two Memories (17-19 Sep.)

A special session with a guest speaker from South Korea. The lecture on Monday will be prolonged (details to be announced in the class).

- ★ Griffiths, J. 2018. "The 'forgotten' My Lai: South Korea's Vietnam War massacres," CNN Report.
- ☆ Nagel, T. 1972. "War and massacre," *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 1(2):123-44.
- ☆ Armstrong, C.K. 2001. "America's Korea, Korea's Vietnam," *Critical Asian Studies*, 33(4):527-40.
- ☆ "My Lai," a documentary film on US killing of civilians during Vietnam War
- ☛ Essay 1 (due on 23 September, submit to Moodle by 17:00)

Week 7. War and Gender: the Comfort Women Issue (24-26 Sep.)

A special session with a guest speaker from South Korea. The lecture on Monday will be prolonged (details to be announced in the class).

- ★ Min, P.G. (2013) "Korean Comfort Women: the intersection of colonial power, gender, and class," *Gender & Society*, 17(6):938-57.
- ☆ Cho, Jung-rae (2016) "Gwi-hyang: Spirits' Homecoming" A film (drama) on Comfort Women.
- ☛ Essay 2 (due on 30 September, submit to Moodle by 17:00)

Week 8. Inter-Korean Dialogue: Perils and Opportunities (1-3 Oct.)

A special session with a guest speaker from South Korea. The lecture on Monday will be prolonged (details to be announced in the class)

- ☆ Koh, D.W. 2004. "Dynamics of inter-Korean conflict and North Korea's recent policy changes: an inter-systemic view," *Asian Survey*, 44(3):422-41.
- ☆ Hess, A.C. 2018. "Why does North Korea engage in provocations?" *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs*, 5(1):57-83.
- ☛ Essay 3 (due on 7 October, submit to Moodle by 17:00)

Week 9. Fall break (8-10 Oct.)

No class

Week 10. The History Textbook Controversy (15-17 Oct.)

A special session with a guest speaker from South Korea. The lecture on Monday will be prolonged (details to be announced in the class)

- ★ Han, U. 2015. "History education and historical reconciliation in East Asia: focusing on the history textbook dialogues between South Korea and Japan," *Journal of Northeast Asian History*, 12(1):95-133.
- ☆ Hundt, D. and Bleiker, R. 2007. "Reconciling colonial memories in Korea and Japan," *Asian Perspective*, 31(1):61-91.
- ☆ Ping, B. 2015. "Dialogues on historical issues concerning East Asia," *Journal of Modern Chinese History*, 9(1):117-29.
- ☛ Essay 4 (due on 21 October, submit to Moodle by 17:00)

Week 11. Exam 2 (22-24 Oct.)

- Exam covers all materials from week 6 through 10.
- Multiple choice and short answer questions on Monday
- Essay questions on Wednesday
- At least 60% to pass (for each exam respectively)
- No make-up or extension

Week 12. The Complexity of Reconciliation (29-31 Oct.)

- ★ Philpott (2012), chapters 4 and 5.
- ★ Kriesberg, L. 2007. "Reconciliation: aspects, growth, and sequences," *International Journal of Peace Studies* 12(1):1-21.
- ☆ Philpott, D. 2010. "Reconciliation: an ethic for peace building," in Daniel Philpott and Gerard F. Powers eds. *Strategies of Peace: Transforming Conflict in a Violent World* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press).

Week 13. A Road to Reconciliation (5-7 Nov.)

- ★ Philpott (2012), chapters 10, 11, and 12.
- ☆ Cahan, J.A. 2013. "Reconciliation or reconstruction? Further thoughts on political forgiveness," *Policy*, 45(2):174-97.
- ☆ Roht-Arriaza, N. 2010. "Human rights and strategic peacebuilding: the rolds of local, national, and international actors," in Daniel Philpott and Gerard F. Powers eds. *Strategies of Peace: Transforming Conflict in a Violent World* (New York, NY: Oxford University Press).
- ☆ Eisikovits, N. 2004. "Forget forgiveness: on the benefits of sympathy for political reconciliation," *Theoria: A Journal of Social and Political Theory*, 105:31-63.

Week 14. Mini Conference (12-14 Nov.)

A mini-conference (poster sessions) is scheduled on both 12 and 14 November. Details will be announced in the class.

Week 15. Wrap-up (19-21 Nov.)

A wrap-up lecture will be given by the main instructor.

Final Exam (26-30 Nov.)

- Exam covers all materials from week 1 through 15.
- The schedule for final will be announced in the class.
- At least 60% to pass.
- No make-up or extension