

PLS195/SOC120

Asian Community

Fall 2019 | TR 12:00–13:15 | Room 8.154

Hoyoun Koh, PhD

✉ Email: ho.koh@nu.edu.kz

🕒 Office hours: TR 14:00-16:00

🏠 Office: 8.417

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 question 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 second half of the course looks into specific cases of conflict and reconciliation among Asian countries through the lens of forgiveness and apology. Cases to be discussed in the class include comfort women, civilian massacre, history textbook controversies, and military confrontation between two Koreas.

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).
- ❖ Cunningham, M. (2014) *States of Apology*, Manchester University Press (ISBN: 978-0719089268).
- ❖ Clements, K.P. ed. (2018) *Identity, Trust, and Reconciliation in East Asia: Dealing with painful history to create a peaceful present*. Palgrave Macmillan Press (ISBN: 978-3319548968).

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).

Course Requirements

Participation (10%) This course keeps tracks of each student's attendance throughout the semester. Attendance rate below 80% will automatically result in a course failure. A 100% attendance will be awarded by adding 1 point to the final score. See the attendance policy for details.

Exams (10+10+20%) 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 final exam. The final exam will be scheduled by the University. Details of each exam will be given in the class.

Short essays (15+15%) There will be two short essay assignments due in week 9 and 13, respectively. Each essay should be no shorter than 2,000 words. Students must demonstrate their abilities of critical thinking and writing. Detailed instructions will be given in the class.

Mini conference (20%) In week 14, students present their original works at a mini conference. Details about the conference will be announced in the class (grading rubric will be available on the 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:

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----|----------------------|----------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Att. and participation | 10% | | A | 95-100 | A⁻ | 90-94.9 | |
| Exams | 40% | 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 |
| Mini conference | 20% | D⁺ | 55-59.9 | D | 50-54.9 | 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 SSH 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 the 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 and Participation 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 notifications. 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 pre-planned 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.

Participation At the beginning of the semester, a student’s participation starts at 90%. Throughout the course, I will award or punish each student’s positive or negative action in the class based on the following criteria:

| Positive action | Negative action |
|---|--|
| Demonstrating (some) understanding of reading assignments | Any evidence indicating the student’s not completing reading |
| Providing crucial and relevant information for the class discussion | Use of cellphones or other prohibited devices during the class |
| Productive responses to another student’s comments | Showing inappropriate manner of discussion and/or disturbing the class discussion and/or lecture |

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 lecture 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 (13 Sep.)

- A take-home exam on Moodle.
- Exam covers all materials from week 1 through 5.
- 24 hours to access the exam and must complete the exam within 2 hours.
- 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.)

- ★ 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

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

- ★ 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.

Week 8. Fall break (1-3 Oct.)

No class

Week 9. Social and Political Consequences of Confrontation (8-10 Oct.)

- ☆ 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 1 due on 11 October (submit to Moodle by 17:00)**

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

- ★ 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.

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

- Exam covers all materials from week 6 through 10.
- Multiple choice and short answer questions on Tuesday
- Essay questions on Thursday
- 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 Gerad 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.
- ☛ **Essay 2 due on 8 November (submit to Moodle by 17:00)**

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

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

Week 15. Final Review (19-21 Nov.)

A final review and wrap-up before the final exam

Final Exam (24-30 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

IMPORTANT DATES

- Exam 1 (13 September)
- Essay 1 (11 October)
- Exam 2 (22 and 24 October)
- Essay 2 (8 November)
- Conference presentations (12 and 14 November)
- Final exam (TBD)