

History 4910: Cold War in Asia

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Office hrs. Wed. 9:30-10 or by appointment

Textbooks:

Fitzgerald, *Fire in the Lake: The Vietnamese and the Americans in Vietnam*
(hereafter called Fire in Lake)

Lee, *Outposts of Empire: Korea, Vietnam, and the Origins of the Cold War in Asia, 1949-54.* (cited hereafter as Outposts)

Schaller, *The American Occupation of Japan: The Origins of the Cold War in Asia* (cited hereafter as Japan Occupation)

Varhola: *Fire & Ire: The Korean War, 1950-53* (cited hereafter as Fire & Ice)

All of the above will be on reserve in USU Library/Media Collection-Reserve Dept.
Also on reserve will be several books on Vietnam (Stanton, *The Rise and Fall of an American Army*; Hess, *Vietnam, etc.*)

Course Scope/Description: This course will focus on “Cold War” conflicts between the US-led “freedom-loving” nations and the USSR-led “communist bloc” from the end of WWII until the late 1980s, focusing on events in Asia. Among the topics covered will be the US occupation of Japan, evolving US-Japanese relations, US-China relations from the Chinese civil war to Clinton’s support of China’s entry into the WTO, Vietnam and its conflict with France and the US, Korea as a Cold War battleground and the subsequent development of North and South Korea, US-North Korean relations, US-Vietnamese relations, and much more.

Objectives:

1. One aim is for students to examine diverse history sources (primary—government documents, memoirs, contemporary articles, etc.; secondary—works of professional historians) in order to develop a more well-rounded understanding of the Cold War conflicts in Asia
2. Another aim is for students to learn how to analyze critically these various types of sources
3. A third aim is for the students to appreciate the complexity of the post-World War II situation in Asia, owing to Cold War tensions, and the lasting legacies of the Cold War in Asia

Requirements:

1. There will be a variety of “class-designated” assignments, including a historiographical essay (perhaps on the Korean War or Vietnam War or a topic of your choice)
2. Take-home final essay (more specific detail provided later; will be due the last day of final exam week)
3. Students are expected to attend and to behave appropriately
4. A book review (can be one of your textbooks); due the last day of class.

Tentative Topic Schedule

- First: Impact of WWII on imperialism/colonialism; impact of FDR's death on US foreign policy; US occupation of Japan (Schaller, chp. 1-4; Lee, chp. 1-2)
- Second: China – US relations (Lee chp. 1-2); Japanese-Chinese relations (Schaller, chp. 10-12)
- Third: Korea (Lee, chp. 3, 5; Schaller, chp. 14-15)
- Fourth: Korean War (Varhola, Fire & Ice)
- Fifth: US-Japan after Korean War (Lee, chp. 6; Schaller, chp. 5-9, 16)
- Sixth: Vietnam (with Japan, Schaller chp. 13; Lee, chp. 7-8 for end of French dominance and Geneva Conference, 1954)
- Seventh: Vietnam (Fitzgerald, Fire in the Lake)
- Eighth: Vietnam (Fitzgerald; also on reserve and in bookstore for Hist. 4810 is Stanton, *Rise and Fall of an American Army: US Ground Forces in Vietnam, 1965-1973*)
- Ninth: Vietnam (Fitzgerald)
- Tenth: Reagan Years, events in Asia (class handouts)
- Eleventh: Bush & Clinton Years; Growth of Globalization (class handouts)
- Twelfth: Asia for the Asians, 1975-2005 (class handouts)
- Thirteenth: China, Japan 1975-2005 (class handouts)
- Fourteenth Week: “Asian Tigers” (South Korea, Taiwan, etc.) (class handout)
- Fifteenth Week: Review, Catch-up, etc.