Course Description
This course introduces the history of Korean Americans from the early 20th-century to the present. We will explore how major social, political, and economic forces in the United States, in Korea, and around the world—such as immigration law, the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean War, the U.S. civil rights movement, feminism, and religion—impact the ways in which Korean Americans develop their identities and communities. Using a variety of sources, including oral histories, autobiographies, photographs, music, and film, we will investigate how Korean Americans have and continue to negotiate the intersections of race, class, gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion, and sexuality.

Grading Policies
Please keep in mind that while it is arithmetically possible to skip an assignment and pass the course, failure to complete any of the required work will result nonetheless in a failing grade. Grades are not negotiable.

Class participation: 20%
Blog postings and comments: 15%
Midterm examination: 25%
Final paper: 40%

Course Requirements
1. Attendance/Class participation. Attendance is mandatory. Yonsei University policy states that students missing more than 1/3 of the classes will automatically receive an F for the course, regardless of how you perform in other assignments. Absences will adversely affect your grade. Letting me know that you will miss class is very considerate of you, but is not a legitimate criterion for an excused absence. This course will consist of lectures and class discussions; your active and informed participation is crucial for the success of the course. You should come to class having read all the reading assignments and having thought of the major themes and important questions that the readings raise. Indeed, you are required to contribute to the class blog, in which you will comment on the assigned readings in advance of class. No late assignments will be accepted and the midterm and final exams cannot be made up.

2. Blog entries. Once a week, you must post a brief, 250-word blog entry that responds to one of the readings of the week. While these essays are not strictly formal, they should each contain in them a definitive position on an issue that you raise. (They should also be composed with appropriate grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure.) You should not try to grapple with all of the readings, nor should your critical response attempt to take on a big topic. Rather, you should focus your analysis to a specific passage in the work. You may refer to personal experience to illuminate your consideration of the reading. These short blog entries will not be
graded, but depending on the quality of your writing and thought, I may deem them satisfactory or unsatisfactory: if the latter, you will not be given credit for your entry. Be prepared to use these blog postings in class to generate discussion. In fact, you are also required to comment on at least one blog posted by one of your classmates. Blog entries must be posted by 11 p.m. every Tuesday evening; comments to blogs must be posted by 11 p.m. every Wednesday evening. The blog web address is http://koreanamhistoryyiss2013.wordpress.com.

3. Midterm exam: The mid-term will take place in class on Thursday, July 18th. It will consist of a combination of identification short-answer, close reading responses and one essay.

4. Final: The final is an essay, and is due on Thursday, August 8th at 4 pm. It must be typed, double-spaced, in a standard 12-point font, with one-inch margins all around. There is no set page limit, but the essay should be approximately 1800-2500 words in length (about six to eight full pages). I will not accept late submissions. Submit your essay as a Microsoft Word attachment or pdf file to my email address: jkl@uci.edu.

5. Conferences. I want to be as accessible to you as possible. I encourage you to set up appointments with me at times most convenient for me and for you. Please feel free to e-mail me as often as you would like: I check my e-mail at least once, generally twice, a day.

6. Miscellaneous concerns.
   • Show up on time. Coming late to class is more disruptive than you think.
   • Respect all in the class. Criticize your colleague’s ideas, not her/his personal character.
   • Please do not pack up your belongings before it is time to go.
   • Please do not engage in extraneous side conversations.
   • Turn off mobile phones before you enter the classroom. Please do not check your Facebook page or Twitter account during class.
   • Please do not be boring. Boring students make boring classes, and I hate boring classes. I’ll try my best to make the class interesting. You do the same.

A Special Note about Plagiarism
The Modern Language Association (MLA) defines plagiarism as “the act of using another person’s ideas or expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source.... to plagiarize is to give the impression your have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed [or taken] from someone else.”¹ (Please note the modeling here.) In others words, if you lift a sentence, phrase, or even an idea for your own paper without acknowledging the source, you are plagiarizing. This rule applies to copying verbatim as well as paraphrasing. Plagiarism is considered a grave academic offense, a “sin” which results automatically in notification to the YISS office, and possibly could constitute failure of the course or even academic suspension/expulsion. If you have any questions, consult MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. Feel free also to speak to me.

Course Schedule (please note that the schedule is subject to change)

Week One
Tuesday, July 2
• Eui-Young Yu and Peter Choe, “Korean Population in the United States as Reflected in the Year 2000 U.S. Census”
Video: The Grace Lee Project

Wednesday, July 3
• German Kim, “Koryo Saram, or Koreans of the Former Soviet Union: In the Past and Present”
• Sonia Ryang, “Koreans in Japan”
• Edward Taehan Chang, “Chosonjok: Koreans in China”

Thursday, July 4
• Lili Kim, “Doing Korean American History in the Twenty-First Century”

Week Two
Monday, July 8
• Gary Pak, “A Ricepaper Airplane”
• Mary Paik Lee, “Origins” and “Oahu and Riverside” from Quiet Odyssey

Tuesday, July 9
• David Yoo, “Paradise Bound,” from Contentious Spirits: Religion in Korean American History, 1903-1945

Wednesday, July 10
• Anne Soon Choi, “Are They Koreaned Enough?” Generation and the Korean Independence Movement Before World War II”
• Syngman Rhee’s Letter to President Theodore Roosevelt, from Theresa Cha’s DICTEE

Thursday, July 11
• Lili Kim, “The Limits of Americanism and Democracy: Korean Americans, Transnational Allegiance, and the Question of Loyalty on the Homefront During World War II”

Week Three
Monday, July 15
• Sang Hyun Lee, “Liminality and Worship in the Korean American Context”
• Sharon Kim, “Replanting Sacred Spaces: The Emergence of Second-Generation Korean American Churches”

Tuesday, July 16
• Anselm Min, “Korean American Catholic Communities: A Pastoral Reflection”

Wednesday, July 17
• Rebecca Kim, “Second-Generation Korean American Evangelicals on the College Campus: Constructing Ethnic Boundaries”
• Nancy Abelmann, “The Evangelical Challenge to College and Family” from The Intimate University: Korean American Students and the Problems of Segregation

Thursday, July 18
Midterm

Week Four
Monday, July 22
• Bruce Cumings, “The Passions, 1945-1948” from Korea’s Place in the Sun
Video: Homes Apart or Beyond the DMZ (first half)

Tuesday, July 23
• Bruce Cumings, “Collision, 1948-1953” from Korea’s Place in the Sun
Video: Homes Apart or Beyond the DMZ (second half)

Wednesday, July 24
• Ramsay Liem, “History, Trauma and Identity: The Legacy of the Korean War for Korean Americans”

Thursday, July 25
• Eleana Kim, “‘Waifs’ and ‘Orphans’: The Origins of Korean Adoption” from Adopted Territory: Transnational Korean Adoptees and the Politics of Belonging
Video: In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee

Week Five
Monday, July 29
• Nancy Abelmann and John Lie, “The Los Angeles Riots, The Korean American Story” from Blue Dreams: Korean Americans and the Los Angeles Riots
Video: Saigu

Tuesday, July 30
• Nadia Kim, “A View from Below: An Analysis of Korean Americans’ Racial Attitudes”
Video: Wet Sand

Wednesday, July 31
• Jamie Lew, “The ‘Other’ Story of Model Minorities: Korean American High School Dropouts in an Urban Context”
• Jung-Sun Park, “Korean American Youth and Transnational Flows of Popular Culture Across the Pacific”

Thursday, August 1
• Han Kyung-Koo, “Some Foods are Good to Think: Kimchi and the Epitomization of National Character”
• Jung Mok-il, “Mother’s Kimchi”
• Sharon Heijin Lee, “The Story of Gimchi Chigae”

**Week Six**

Monday, August 5
• Helene Lee, “Korean American Kings and Lepers: Gendered Ethnic Experiences Among Korean Americans in Seoul, South Korea”
• Jane Jeong Trenka, *Fugitive Visions*, pp. 5-76

Tuesday, August 6
• Jane Jeong Trenka, *Fugitive Visions*, pp. 79-166

Wednesday, August 7
• Jane Jeong Trenka, *Fugitives Visions*, pp. 169-197

Thursday, August 8
**Final paper due. Email as a Word or pdf attachment to jkl@uci.edu.**