History 291D: Traitors and Collaborators in Colonial History

Fall 2008, M 1:15–3:05
Classroom 200–202

Professor: Yumi Moon
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Office Hours: T 1:00–3:00 p.m., and by appointment

Course Description

Collaboration is one of the most important phenomena in the history of empire and crucial in the politics of any occupied regime or colony. This undergraduate seminar will explore cases and themes related to collaboration under colonial rule and will question the roles and problems of collaboration in the rise, sustenance, and fall of empires. Themes will include conceptual definitions of collaboration and empire, collaboration of traditional elites, colonial intermediaries, accommodation of religious communities, assimilation and collaboration, class and empire, and collaborators in the process of decolonization. Regional focus will be given to East Asia, but cases will be taken from various continents during their colonial periods.

The course has two main objectives. The first is to understand various types of local cooperation under military dominance of foreign occupiers or colonizers, and to explain the motives of local cooperators and their historical trajectories. The second is to discuss diverse scholarly definitions of collaboration and its related themes, and to test whether the concept of collaboration provides a useful and relevant framework for understanding the history of colonies. For these objectives, throughout the course, you will create your own definitions of collaboration, find a case of collaboration in one of your regions of interest, and discuss the importance of your case in accordance to your definition.

Required Texts


The course texts are available at the campus bookstore and will be on reserve in Green Library. Additional readings will be on the course website.
You are also required to watch two movies, for September 29 and October 6. They are **RESERVED** in **Media/Microtext**, Green Library Lower Level.

**Requirements and Assessment**

1) **Attendance and class participation**: 40% (including 10% for response papers)
   * You are required to finish the reading assignments prior to each class, bring your own questions on the readings, and actively participate in discussion. You will submit one- or two-paragraph response papers to the instructor’s weekly questions on the readings. The instructor’s questions will be posted weekly on the course website or emailed to students. Your response papers are **due the midnight before each class**.

   *Students are expected to bring hard copies of all assigned readings to class.

   *Attendance is mandatory.

2) **One short critical essay** (5–6 double-spaced pages) on either of the following two questions: 30%

   a) You will critically review definitions of collaboration by various scholars and discuss her or his thoughts on strengths and problems of those definitions.
   b) You will discuss how collaboration in colonial contexts differs from collaboration in wartime Europe, using the readings assigned in the course.

   The paper is due **October 20 at the beginning of class**. You are expected to submit a hard copy of your paper.

3) **A final mini-research paper** (10–12 double-spaced pages): 30%
   You will write a mini-research paper on one case of collaboration in any colony and explore the themes discussed in the course.

   a) You are required to consult with the instructor on your research paper before the submission of your proposal. Consultations will occur between October 20 and November 7.
   b) A one-page (single-spaced) proposal for the research paper is due by the beginning of class on **November 10**.
   c) You will present your final research paper in class on **December 1**.
   d) The final paper is due **Friday December 12 by midnight**. Students can email their papers to the instructor.
September 22: Introduction to Course

I. Definitions of Collaboration

September 29: Colonialism and Collaboration

Movie: “Devils on the Doorstep” RESERVED in Media/Microtext, Green Library Lower Level.

October 6: Collaboration during World War II: Origins of the Term and Definitions


October 13: Empires and Collaboration
Henry Kamen, Spain’s Road to Empire, pp. xxi–xxvi and “The Pearl of the Orient,” pp. 197–237.
II. Cases of Collaboration

**October 20: Local Intermediaries**

*The Short Essay Is Due in Class*


* 20 minute in-class course evaluation.

**October 27: Religious Accommodations**


**November 3: Reform and Collaboration**


**November 10: Class and Collaboration**

*The Research Proposal Is Due in Class*


**November 17: Assimilation and Collaboration**

Leo T. S. Ching, *Becoming Japanese: Colonial Taiwan and the Politics of Identity Formation*.


**Thanksgiving Recess Nov. 24–Nov. 28**

**December 1: Decolonization and Collaboration: Trials and Memory**

**In-Class Presentations of Research Papers**
