## Course Description

This course is a comparative survey of historical memory in East and Southeast Asia. By exploring the ways in which states and ordinary citizens understand their own representations of history as well as their representations of other nations’ histories, students will develop understandings of the ways in which historical consciousness both shapes, and is shaped by, political relationships across nation-states.

## Mode of Instruction

The primary format for this course is a participatory seminar. Members of the seminar will be asked to read weekly materials and come to class prepared to discuss them. Class discussion, readings, presentations, and written assignments will be used. I encourage students to draw on their personal experiences and opinions in discussions and class assignments. Every student brings a wealth of personal experience and practical expertise that will enhance the learning process and make our time together more meaningful. By sharing reflections on our personal, professional, and academic experiences and opinions, we will be able develop critical understandings of historical memory in this course.

## Grading and assignments

**Participation (30%)** - Come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings, ask questions about the readings, and engage your peers in informed discussion about the assigned readings/topic. Active participation in class discussions that reflect an understanding and synthesis of assigned readings is the goal. Come prepared with notes and questions from the readings.

**Student-led Presentation and Discussion (20%)** - Depending on the number of students in the class, individuals or groups of students will be responsible for preparing a presentation on a selected reading for each part of class. When it is your turn to present, you should prepare brief handouts for fellow students and set the stage for class discussion. Further details about the presentation will be discussed in class.

**Writing Assignment and Presentation (50%)** – “Critiquing my historical memory”: Write a 5 to 7-page essay critiquing a historical memory or narrative you experienced growing up in your local, regional, or national community. Your objective is not only to detail the narrative of your case study but also to critique it using methods/questions learned in class. Each student will give a 5-minute presentation on her/his essay. The written assignment is due and the classroom presentations will take place during Class 8.

## Course Materials

Reading assignments will be available online.

## Course Outline
Class 1: Introduction – What is historical memory?


Reading 2: Anderson, B. *Imagined Communities*, Chapter 10.


Movie: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0d4I-HgRYo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0d4I-HgRYo)

Class 2: Historical memory in textbooks & the power of forgetting

*Part 1: Textbooks*


*Part 2: The Power of Forgetting*

Reading 1: Anderson, B. *Imagined Communities*, Chapter 11.


Class 3: Diplomacy and nationalism through World Heritage and the debate over Comfort Women

*Part 1: World Heritage*


**Part 2: Comfort Women**


Film in Class: “Comfort Women Wanted”

**Class 4: Nanjing Massacre and Dokdo/Takeshima**

**Part 1: Nanjing Massacre**


**Part 2: Dokdo/Takeshima**


**Class 5: World War II**

CLASS TRIP TO YUSHUKAN WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM – DETAILS TBD

**Part 1: The untold history of America**

Film in Class: “Chapter 3: The Bomb”

**Part 2: Yushukan war memorial museum**

Reading 1: Kuo, L. (2014). “The Story of World War II according to Japan’s controversial War Museum.” *Quartz*.

Class 6: Southeast Asia

Part 1: An authentic Thainess?

Part 2: Remembering Angkor

Class 7: The Future of Historical Memory?

Class 8: Class Presentations: “Critiquing my historical memory”
No Reading.

Instructor Bio

Will Brehm is an Assistant Professor at the Waseda Institute for Advanced Study, Waseda University. His research interests include the intersection of comparative and international education with international relations and the political economy of development, focused primarily in Southeast Asia. He is currently conducting a comparative research project that explores historical memory and schooling across Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, and Vietnam. He also consults for the World Bank in Cambodia and hosts a weekly podcast on education, globalization, and society called FreshEd. Will graduated with his PhD from the Faculty of Education at the University of Hong Kong.