

EALC 199/HIST 108/KOR 197: Introduction to East Asian History - Korea

Lectures: MWF 11:00-11:50 (CST) @ 294 Van Hise/4057 Lincoln; 12:00-12:50 (EST) @ 7 Sparks

Instructor: Dr. Charles Kim ☐

Electronic Office Hours (on Google Chat): Tuesdays, 1:00-2:00 and by appt.

Google ID: c.ron.kim@gmail.com (for electronic office hours only)

In-Person Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 and by appt.

Office: Humanities 4122

Email: ckim45@wisc.edu ☐

Phone: (608) 263-1831

Grader: MeeSun Kim

Email: mkim342@wisc.edu

PSU Proctor: Gabe Williams

Email: gww5086@psu.edu

UIUC Proctor: Chaehyun Lee

Email: cle133@illinois.edu

Course Description:

Korea has a long and rich history that provides a unique vantage point for understanding major processes in East Asia and the world. This course provides an introduction to Korean history from the fourteenth century to the present. In the first part of the semester, we will delve into key topics from the Chosŏn Dynasty (1392-1910), including Confucian statecraft and Confucianization, collective (or “proto-national”) identity, and the Tonghak religion and rebellions. In the second part of the semester, we will explore politics, culture, and society under Japanese colonial rule (1910-1945). For the third part of the semester, we will turn to the contemporary era (1945 to present) in North Korea and South Korea. National division, the Korean War, democratization, and globalization are among the topics that will be covered.

Course Objectives:

- 1) Learn about major patterns, events, and issues in Korean history, 1392 to present.
- 2) Learn about the relevance of the past to the present.
- 3) Gain an understanding of the ways in which Korea’s history fits into regional and global history.
- 4) Create a forum for students to engage in informed and well-considered dialogue about course readings and topics.

Korean Studies e-School:

This course is part of the CIC (Committee on Institutional Cooperation) e-school for Korean Studies, which currently consists of ten core universities located in the Midwest and the Mid-Atlantic regions. It is a relatively new program that began operation during the 2012-13 academic year. This semester, the e-school is offering six courses at nine CIC campuses. I will teach this course primarily from a video conferencing classroom (294 Van Hise) located at the University of Wisconsin-Madison that will link students at that campus to students at Penn State University (7 Sparks) and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (4057 Lincoln). I will teach a session from the University of Illinois on Feb. 21 and from Penn State on Feb. 26.

Required Text:

Kyung Moon Hwang, *A History of Korea: An Episodic Narrative* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010)

Films will be made available for students to view electronically.

All other readings will be in the Course Reader, unless indicated otherwise. The Reader will be available for purchase at:

Illinois: Notes n Quotes (502 E John St, 217-344-4433)

Penn State: Copy Central (Penn State Bookstore, 814-863-2988)

Wisconsin: L&S Copy Center (1650 Humanities, 608-263-1803)

Course Requirements:

- 1) Attendance & class participation: 15%
- 2) Midterm examination: 15%
- 3) Eight response papers (250-400 words each): (8 x 2.5% =) 20%
- 4) One short essay (1,000-1,250 words): 25%
- 5) Final examination: 25%

Course Regulations:

- 1) Because class participation is a significant portion of your final grade, attendance is mandatory. Consistent failure to take part in class discussions, unexcused absences, tardiness, and/or early departures will result in a poor participation grade. Get into the habit of reading the required readings and giving yourself enough time to think and raise questions about them. **This is the basic level of preparation expected of each student for every class meeting.**

In order to encourage reading (and, by extension, to facilitate better class contributions), I may administer pop quizzes on occasion. Your performance on these quizzes will be calculated into your attendance and class participation grade. The lowest grade will be dropped. There will be no make-up pop quizzes.

Finally, be sure to bring the assigned readings to every class meeting.

- 2) Submit response papers to Dropbox on the course page at Learn@UW in one of the following formats: doc, docx, pdf, rtf, or ppt. The lowest score of the nine total response papers will be dropped when calculating the final course grade. You have the option of skipping one of the nine response papers.
- 3) Late paper submissions (response papers and short essay) will receive a deduction of half a letter grade for each late day.
- 4) Laptops and tablets may **only** be used during lecture for note-taking or viewing the PowerPoint presentation. Please do not surf the Internet, use social media, or do something else unrelated to this course because it can be quite distracting to your fellow students, as well as the course instructor. If you have your eyes glued to the screen or are clicking away on your mouse, then a proctor or I may check in to make sure that you're on task. Mobile phones should be turned off and put away throughout each class session.
- 5) Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any assignment for this course. It's perfectly fine to draw on academic work done by others, as long as you cite their work. However, it's unacceptable to use other people's work, while giving the impression that it is your own original work. For more on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, see the UW Writing Center's "Writer's Handbook": <http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QuotingSources.html>.

Academic Accommodations for Students:

Please let me know at the start of the semester if you have a need for an accommodation in his course. If you have any questions about this or require any assistance, feel free to contact me, Disability Resources & Educational Services (Illinois), the Office of Disability Services (Penn), or the McBurney Disability Resource Center (Wisconsin).

A Note on the Syllabus

I intend to stick closely to the contents of this syllabus, but, as we progress through the course, I may make some adjustments in readings and assignments. If I do so, it will be to improve the learning experience. I will do my best to make adjustments in as democratic a manner as possible, and to let you know ahead of time.

Course Schedule:

Since each university has a slightly different academic calendar, I have made adjustments to the course schedule so that the course can accommodate all three campuses. These adjustments will especially be apparent at the start of the semester, during spring break period in March, and the end of the semester, as well as with the length of the semester. I will refer below to the three universities respectively as PSU, UIUC, and UW.

Week 1

Mon., 1/20 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No Class

Wed., 1/22 – Course Introduction

PSU & UIUC STUDENTS: If you have not received an email with a username and login instructions for Learn@UW, be sure to email the course instructor so that he can request access for you on Learn@UW. Since the process can take several days, it is best that you do this right away.

Fri., 1/24 – Korea in Global and Regional Perspective

Read this syllabus carefully so that you understand my expectations of you and how the course will work.

Charles K. Armstrong, *The Koreas* (London: Routledge, 2007), 1-17 (CR 1-11)

Watch on YouTube:

“Taste of Harmony (Bibimbap)”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-pCwoEn75E>

“Experience BCD Tofu House!”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NLQy8QncVoE>

“Maangchi meetup in LA, 2010”

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iZptV1_3qQ

Questions to think about before class:

The three YouTube clips show brief glimpses of (South Korean) governmental, entrepreneurial, and grassroots efforts to promote Korean culture to people outside Korea. What qualities of Korean food are emphasized to promote it among the uninitiated? Are the clips persuasive? Why or why not? In what ways do you think these clips reflect Korean culture in the present context?

I. The Chosŏn Era (1392-1910)

Week 2

Mon., 1/27 – Conceptions of History

Remco Breuker, Grace Koh, and James B. Lewis, “The Tradition of Historical Writing in Korea,” in *The Oxford History of Historical Writing, Volume 2: 400-1400* (London: Oxford University Press, 2012), 119-125, 131-137 (Course Reader 12-19 – HEREAFTER “CR”)

Yŏngho Ch’oe, Peter H. Lee and Wm. Theodore de Bary, eds., “New Perspectives on History,” *Sources of Korean Tradition, Vol. 2* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), 182-186 (CR 20-23)

Wed., 1/29 – Founding the Dynasty

Kyung Moon Hwang, *A History of Korea*, 60-70 (HEREAFTER “HWANG”)

Peter H. Lee and Wm. Theodore de Bary, eds., “Founding the Chosŏn Dynasty,” and “Political Thought in Early Chosŏn,” *Sources of Korean Tradition, Vol. 1* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1997), 271-276, 279-285 (CR 24-32)

Response Paper 1 (250-400 words), due by 12 a.m. (CST) on Learn@UW Dropbox (<https://learnuw.wisc.edu/>)

Based on a close reading of “King T’aejo: Founding Edict,” “Admonition to the New King,” “Kwŏn Kŭn: On Royal Action,” “Chŏng Tojŏn: On the Prime Minister,” and “Yang Sŏngji: Discussion on the Kingly Way,” answer the following questions: What were the powers and responsibilities of the king of Chosŏn? What were the limitations on his power and influence?

Fri., 1/31 – Confucian Reforms

Hwang, 71-79

Lee & de Bary, eds., “Propagation of Confucian Values,” *Sources of Korean Tradition, Vol. 1*, 321-326 (CR 33-36)

Week 3

Mon., 2/3 – East Asian Inter-state Relations

Hwang, 80-98

Wed., 2/5 – Women in Chosŏn Korea

John Duncan, “The *Naehun* and the Politics of Gender in Fifteenth-Century Korea,” *Creative Women of Korea: The Fifteenth Through the Twentieth Centuries* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2004), 26-57 (CR 37-54)

Response Paper 2, due by 12 a.m. (CST) on Dropbox

Duncan focuses on social context and individual agency in his interpretation of Queen Sohye’s Naehun. Explain how his analysis sheds new light on the place of women in Chosŏn Korea.

Fri., 2/7 – Questioning Neo-Confucianism

Hwang, 99-108

Yŏngho Ch’oe, Peter H. Lee and Wm. Theodore de Bary, eds., “Reform Proposals,” *Sources of Korean Tradition, Vol. 2*, 101-112 (CR 55-61)

Week 4

Mon., 2/10 – Popular Culture in Chosŏn Korea

Hwang, 109-117

FILM: *The King and the Clown* (dir. Joon-ik Lee, 2005, 119 min.)

Wed., 2/12 – The Tonghak Movement & 19th-Century Peasant Protest

Hwang, 129-137

Yŏngho Ch’oe, Peter H. Lee and Wm. Theodore de Bary, eds., “The Emergence of the Tonghak Religion,” *Sources of Korean Tradition, Vol. 2*, 228-235 (CR 62-65)

Fri., 2/14 – New Conceptions of History

Hwang, 138-149

Henry H. Em, *The Great Enterprise: Sovereignty and Historiography in Modern Korea* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2013), 79-83 (CR 66-68)

Yŏngho Ch'oe, Peter H. Lee and Wm. Theodore de Bary, eds., "The Study of Korean History," *Sources of Korean Tradition*, Vol. 2, 316-319 (CR 69-70)

Response Paper 3 Due by 12 a.m. (CST)

Review your notes from "Conceptions of History" (Jan. 27). After reading the Hwang and Em readings, explain some of the ways in which Sin Ch'aeho's introduction represents a major departure from traditional modes of history-writing in Korea. What is the significance of conceiving of history in terms of "the struggle between the ego and nonego?"

Week 5

Mon., 2/17 – Midterm Review

Wed., 2/19 – **Midterm Exam**

II. The Colonial Era

Fri., 2/21 – The Colonization of Korea

Hwang, 150-160

Isabella Bird Bishop, *Korea and Her Neighbors* (Seoul: Yonsei University Press, 1970), 23-34, 387-398, 445-459 (CR 71-94)

Instructor will teach this session from UIUC.

Week 6

Mon., 2/24 – The March First Movement & "Cultural Rule"

Hwang, 161-171

Jiyeon Kim, trans., "Sin Paegu," *Imperatives of Culture* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2013), 29-40 (CR 95-102)

Wed., 2/26 – "New Women"

Hwang, 172-182

Chu Yosŏp, "Characteristics of New Women and Traditional Women," 43-47 (CR 104-106)

Choi Hyaeweol, ed., "The 'Modern Girl' Question," 74-79 (CR 107-110)

Choi Hyaeweol, ed., "Cartoons," 81-93 (CR 110-116)

Instructor will teach this session from PSU.

Fri., 2/28 – The Asia-Pacific War 1: Koreans in the Japanese Military

Hwang, 183-194

FILM: *My Way* (dir. Je-kyu Kang, 2011, 137 min.)

Response Paper 4 Due by 12 a.m. (CST)

War always pits a "friend" and an "enemy" against each other in clear-cut ways. Who is the "friend" and the "enemy" in this film? Is the poor treatment of ethnic Korean soldiers a smart strategy for mobilizing non-Japanese to serve in the Japanese imperial army?

Week 7

Mon., 3/3 – The Asia-Pacific War 2: "Comfort Women"

Joshua D. Pilzer, *Hearts of Pine: Songs in the Lives of Three Korean Survivors of the Japanese "Comfort Women"* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), 3-29 (CR 117-131)

Listen to audio clips that appear in the introduction at:

<http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199759576/songs/>

III. The Contemporary Era

Wed., 3/5 – National Division & the North Korean Revolution

Hwang, 195-204

Anna Louise Strong, "In North Korea: First Eye-Witness Report" (read in and bring the reading to class)

Access at: <http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/strong-anna-louise/1949/in-north-korea/index.htm>

Fri., 3/7 – The U.S. Military Government & Establishing Separate Korean States

Michael J. Seth, *A History of Korea: From Antiquity to Present* (Lanham, MD: Rowman Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2011), 311-323 (CR 132-139)

Walter Choinski Papers, “My Tour in South Korea,” State Historical Society, Madison, Wisc., 1-35 (CR 140-157)

Response Paper 5 Due by 12 a.m. (CST)

Choinski was a US intelligence officer stationed in South Korea during the US occupation. Identify the responses and counter-responses that Korean political leaders and groups made with respect to the controversial UN-sponsored elections of 1948. What measures did he take as a high-ranking intelligence officer? Were they justified?

Week 8 (Spring Break for PSU)

Mon., 3/10 – The Korean War (UIUC & UW)

Hwang, 205-212

Yi Sobang, “I Survived Communist Seoul,” manuscript, Korean Affairs Institute, Washington, D.C., 1-29 (CR 158-172)

Wed., 3/12 – Korean War Memories (UIUC & UW)

FILM: *Welcome to Dongmakgol* (dir. Kwang-Hyun Park, 2005, 133 min.)

Response Paper 6 Due by 12 a.m. (CST) (UIUC & UW)

Dongmakgol is a fictional village untouched by the ideological conflict of the 1945-1950 period. What do the villagers of Dongmakgol symbolize? What kind of alternate vision of post-1945 Korean history does the film recommend?

Fri., 3/14 – No Class

Week 9 (Spring Break for UW)

3/17-21 – No Classes

Week 10 (Spring Break for UIUC)

Mon., 3/24 – The Korean War (PSU)

Hwang, 205-212

Yi Sobang, "I Survived Communist Seoul," manuscript, Korean Affairs Institute, Washington, D.C., 1-29 (CR 158-172)

Wed., 3/26 – Korean War Memories (PSU)

FILM: *Welcome to Dongmakgol* (dir. Kwang-Hyun Park, 2005, 133 min.)

Response Paper 6 Due by 12 a.m. (EST) (PSU)

Dongmakgol is a fictional village untouched by the ideological conflict of the 1945-1950 period. What do the villagers of Dongmakgol symbolize? What kind of alternate vision of post-1945 Korean history does the film recommend?

Fri., 3/28 – No Class

Week 11 – RESUME THREE-CAMPUS MEETINGS

Mon., 3/31 – The North Korean Partisan State

Hwang, 213-224

Heinz Insu Fenkl, trans., *The Great General Mighty Wing*, 1-55

Access at: <http://www.heinzinsufenkl.net/mw/mightywing.htm>

Wed., 4/2 – South Korea, the Vietnam War & Economic Development

Hwang, 225-235

Watch on YouTube:

“The Miracle of the Han River – Park Chung Hee”
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UA92mb3d3xo>

“ROK Military in Viet Nam Tribute”
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dgGf-HQibNY>

“Barbaric act of the Korean military during the Vietnam War”
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q-JSoKUoPyA>

“Sergeant Kim’s Return from Vietnam”
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRC7AqbT95Y>

Translation of lyrics are may be found on CR 173. From Youngju Ryu, “Korea’s Vietnam: Popular Culture, Patriarchy, Intertextuality, *The Review of Korean Studies* (September 2009), 106.

Fri., 4/4 – The Yusin Era in South Korea

Hwang, 236-248

Suh Sung, *Unbroken Spirits: Nineteen Years in South Korea's Gulag* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littleman Publishers, 2001), vii-x, 1-29 (CR 174-192)

Week 12

Mon., 4/7 – South Korea's Democracy Movement

Hwang, 261-269

Short Essay Due in Class

Essay Prompt: *What were the key political and geopolitical forces responsible for the eruption of the Korean War? In a well-organized essay with a clear thesis statement, identify the forces responsible for the eruption of the Korean War and explain how each factored into the event. Length: 1,000-1,250 words.*

Wed., 4/9 – Globalization & South Korea: An Overview

Hwang, 270-280

“Korean Men Use Brokers to Find Brides in Vietnam,” *New York Times*, February 22, 2007.

“Wed to Strangers, Vietnamese Wives Build Korean Lives,” *New York Times*, March 30, 2008.

Both *New York Times* articles are in CR 193-197 . For images, see:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/22/world/asia/22brides.html?pagewanted=all>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/30/world/asia/30brides.html?pagewanted=all>

Watch on YouTube:

“Unite and Resist! Migrant and Irregular Workers in Korea,”
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfxYnLwiiYE>

“Multicultural Support Policies in Korea [Korea Today],”
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v5xziVI9aY>

Fri., 4/11 – Gender in Contemporary South Korea

Cho Haejoang, “Living With Conflicting Subjectivities: Mother, Motherly Wife, and Sexy Woman in the Transition from Colonial-Modern to Postmodern Korea,” in *Under Construction* (Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2002), 165-196 (CR 198-214)

FILM: *Sunny* (dir. Hyeong-Cheol Kang, 2011, 124 min.)

Response Paper 7 Due by 12 a.m. (CST)

After reading the Cho article, place the main adult characters depicted in Sunny in historical perspective. Are they “postmodern” women (by Cho’s definition)? Why or why not? In what ways do the women’s contemporary (i.e., 21st-century) recollections of their childhood support Cho’s point about historical changes?

Week 14: Spotlight: Politics in Contemporary South Korea

Mon., 4/14 – Student Activism in Contemporary South Korea

Guest Lecture by David Armiak (UW-Madison)

Reading TBA

Wed., 4/16 – The North Korea Issue in South Korea

Guest Lecture by Cheehyung Kim (Duke University)

Reading TBA

Fri., 4/18 – Contemporary South Korean Politics

Guest Lecture by Sun-Chul Kim (Emory University)

Reading TBA

Week 13

Mon., 4/21 – Globalization & South Korean Pop Culture

Woongjae Ryoo, “Globalization, or the logic of cultural hybridization: the case of the Korean wave,” *Asian Journal of Communication*, August 2009, 137-151 (CR 215-222)

Watch the first two episodes of *Secret Garden* (2010), available on Drama Fever.

Link to site:

<http://www.dramafever.com/>

Direct link to *Secret Garden*:

http://www.dramafever.com/drama/3875/1/Secret_Garden/?ap=1

Response Paper 8 Due by 12 a.m. (CST)

Does Secret Garden fit into Ryoo’s notion of “cultural hybridization”? Why or why not? Do you see signs of “quasi-cultural imperialism” in the drama? If so, explain.

Wed., 4/23 – North Korean Politics Today

Reading TBA

Fri., 4/25 – Contemporary North Korea

Reading TBA

Week 14

Mon., 4/28 – North Korea’s Unofficial Economies

Andrei Lankov, *The Real North Korea: Life and Politics in the Failed Stalinist Utopia* (London: Oxford University Press, 2013), 82-108 (CR 223-239)

Wed., 4/30 – North Koreans in South Korea

Andrei Lankov, *North of the DMZ: Essays on Daily Life in North Korea* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, 2007), 286-297 (CR 241-247)

Blaine Harden, *Escape from Camp 14: One Man’s Remarkable Odyssey from North Korea to Freedom in the West* (London: Penguin Books, 2012), 277-320 (CR 248-262)

Response Paper 9 Due by 12 a.m. (CST)

Typical North Korean defectors must embark on a perilous, open-ended odyssey. What were your impressions of the Lankov and Harden readings? What steps might be taken to lessen the difficulties of North Korean refugees and defectors?

Fri., 5/2 – Epilogue/Review for Final Exam

Week 15

The final exam will be administered during the week of May 5 – time & date TBD.

Simplified Chronology of Korean History

Paleolithic Age: ≈ 400,000 – 10,000 BCE

Neolithic Age: ≈ 6000 – 1000 BCE

Bronze/Iron Ages ≈ 1000 BCE – 300 CE

Old Chosŏn ≈ 2333 – 108 BCE

Jin ≈ 3rd – 2nd centuries BCE

Okchŏ ≈ 2nd century BCE – 5th century CE

Puyŏ (Ch. Fuyu) ≈ 2nd century BCE – 494 CE

Tongye ≈ 150 BCE – 400 CE

Samhan (Mahan, Chinhan, Pyŏnhan) ≈ 1st century BCE – 4th century CE

Three Kingdoms Era: 57 BCE – 668 CE

Kaya States: 42 – 562 CE

Koguryŏ Kingdom: 37 BCE – 668 CE

Paekche Kingdom: 18 BCE – 660 CE

Silla Kingdom: 57 BCE – 668 CE

Unified Silla Era: 668 – 935

Parhae (Ch. Bohai) Kingdom: 698 – 926

Koryŏ Era: 918/935 – 1392

Chosŏn Era: 1392 – 1910

Colonial Era: 1910 – 1945

Contemporary Era: 1945 – present

North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): 1948- present

South Korea (Republic of Korea): 1948 - present