

UW- Madison, Department of History

History 225: **Introduction to East Asian History: Korea**
Humanities 1217, MWF 11:00-11:50

Dr. Charles Kim
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This course is a survey of major political, social, and cultural developments in Korea from antiquity to the twentieth century. We will examine a range of topics, including politics, culture, society, and religion. We will also pay close attention to historical interactions among Korea and other countries and the relationship between the past and present, while taking account of the ways in which Korea fits within broader patterns of East Asian and world history. My aim is to provide students with the historical knowledge and the conceptual tools necessary to understand contemporary North and South Korea — and other parts of the world.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Carter ECKERT et al., *Korea Old and New: A History* (Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University: 1990)

Course Reader, available at the Humanities Copy Center (1650 Humanities Building).

GRADING:

- (1) Attendance & Participation: To do well in this class, regular attendance and consistent participation are a must. You have to attend class in order to participate consistently, and exams will be based largely on what we do in class. Classroom participation will make up 10% of the final grade.
- (2) Discussion Postings: Over the course of the semester, you will respond to four discussion questions on Learn@UW. Each posting should be a minimum of 250 words in length. Scores on discussion postings will amount to 15% of the final grade.
- (3) Paper: You will write one paper (1,000-1,500 words) due on March 26. After you receive the initial grade for your paper, you can revise and resubmit it on April 30. If you submit a rewrite, then I will use the higher of the two grades that you receive. Your paper will make up 20% of your final grade.
- (4) Midterm: The midterm (Feb. 12) will make up 20% of your final grade.
- (5) Group Presentation: Near the end of the semester, each of you will give a group presentation on a topic of your choice. This assignment will amount to 15% of your final grade.

- (6) Take-home Final: The final is due in my office on Thursday, May 13 at 5 p.m. It is worth 20% of the final grade.
- (7) For extra credit, you may submit a written response paper for the Robert Buswell lecture in April. More details to come.
- (8) Recap of Grading:

Class Participation = 10%
Midterm Exam = 20%
Discussion Postings = 15%
Paper = 20%
Presentation: 15%
Take-home Final Exam: 20%

COURSE REGULATIONS:

- (1) Laptops may only be used in class to take or refer to notes.
- (2) Late paper submissions (i.e., anything submitted after class had ended on the due date) will receive a 5-point deduction for each late day. Submit late papers in my mailbox on the fourth floor.
- (3) Late discussion postings will not be graded.
- (4) Plagiarism — the use of another person's words or ideas without citation — will not be tolerated in any written assignment.

NOTE ON ROMANIZATION

Nowadays, Korean is primarily written in *Hangul*, a phonetic script invented in the fifteenth century. *Hangul* is well suited for rendering the sounds of the Korean language; the Roman alphabet is not. There are two widely used Romanization systems for modern Korean: the **McCune-Reischauer System** (McR) and the **Revised Romanization System** (RR). The South Korean government adopted the latter system in 2000, and its use has expanded a lot over the past decade. McR was created in the 1930s and remains the Romanization system of choice among many scholars, librarians, and publishers. As a result, most (but not all) of the articles and books we will be reading this semester use the McR System. In class and for exams, I will use the McR system. If a key term in the readings appears in the RR format, then I will provide the McR equivalent in class.

Important exceptions are certain terms, place-names, and personal names that have seen wide use in a form that fits neither Romanization system. *Hangul* is a good example. If one adheres to either system, then the word should be romanized into either *Hangŭl* (McR) or *Hangeul* (RR), but people most commonly spell it without the diacritical mark

(^) or the extra *e*. To give another example, Korean personal names are often romanized idiosyncratically. For example, South Korea's first president spelled his name Syngman RHEE (YI, Sûng-man, McR; YI, Seung-man, RR), and North Korea's current leader spells his names KIM, Jong Il (KIM, Chông-il, McR; GIM, Jeong-il, RR). For this class, we will use the idiosyncratic Romanization of terms, place-names, and personal names if they are in wide use.

For an overview of the McR system, see <http://www.romanization.org/main.php>

For an overview of the RR system, see http://www.korea.net/korea/kor_loca.asp?code=L0602

NOTE ON KOREAN NAMES

As is the case throughout East Asia, the standard sequence for Korean personal names is **family name** first, **given name** second. However, it is also common to see personal names appear in reverse order to fit the convention in other parts of the world. To avoid confusion, I will write family names in CAPITAL letters.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Wed., 1/20: Introduction

I. Historical Overview

Fri., 1/22: Origins

KON, 1-23

Peter H. LEE and Wm. Theodore DE BARY eds., *Sources of Korean Tradition: Volume Two* (New York, Columbia University Press, 2000), 4-13 — available on Learn@UW under Content

FIRST ASSIGNMENT: Bring a photocopy of your student ID to class

Mon., 1/25: The Three Kingdoms Era — Unified Silla

KON, 24-56

Wed., 1/27: Koryô

KON, 57-85

Fri., 1/29: Chosôn

KON, 100-131

Mon., 2/1: Late Chosôn

KON, 155-177

Wed., 2/3: Colonial Era

KON, 254-275

Fri., 2/5: South Korea

Charles K. ARMSTRONG, *The Koreas* (New York: Routledge, 2007), 21-56

Mon., 2/8: North Korea

Charles K. ARMSTRONG, *The Koreas* (New York: Routledge, 2007), 57-88

Wed., 2/10: National Division, the Korean War, and the Unification Issue

Fri., 2/12: MIDTERM

II. Nation, History, and Culture

Mon., 2/15: Conceiving of "Korea"

Henry H. EM, "Nationalism, Post-Nationalism, and Shin Ch'ae-ho," *Korea Journal* 39:2 (Summer 1999), 283-317

Wed., 2/17: A New Center

Andre SCHMID, "Decentering the 'Middle Kingdom': The Problem of China in Nationalist Thought, 1895-1910," in *Nation Work: Asian Elites and National Identities* (2000), 83-108

Fri., 2/19: Nationalism and Its Discontents

Michael E. ROBINSON, *Korea's Twentieth-Century Odyssey* (Honolulu: UH Press, 2007) 56-75

Mon., 2/22: Korean Architecture

Guest Lecture by Professor Jung-hye SHIN (UW-Madison, School of Human Ecology, Design Studies Dept.)

Wed., 2/24: National Culture

Laura C. Nelson, "Is 'Korean' an Ephemeral Quality? Anthropological Perspectives on Korean Social and Cultural Dynamism" (2006)

Fri., 2/26, Mon., 3/1, Wed., 3/3: *Sopyonje* (dir. IM, Kwon-taek, 1993, 112 min.)

CHO, Tong-il, "The General Nature of P'ansori," *Korea Journal* 26:4 (April 1986), 10-22

CHO, Hae-joang, "*Sopyonje*: Its Cultural and Historical Meaning," in *Im Kwon-Taek: The Making of a Korean National Cinema* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2002) 134-156

Heather WILLOUGHBY, "The Sound of *Han*. P'ansori, Timbre, and a Korean Ethos of Pain and Suffering," in *Yearbook for Traditional Music* 32 (2000), 17-30

DISCUSSION POSTING #1: Due Wed., 3/3, 9 a.m.

Fri., 3/5: Writing Systems in Korea

Peter H. LEE and Wm. Theodore DE BARY eds., *Sources of Korean Tradition: Volume One* (New York, Columbia University Press, 2000), 293-296

Young-mee Yu CHO, "Diglossia in Korean Language and Literature: A Historical Perspective," in *East Asia: An International Quarterly* 20:1 (2002), 3-23

Mon., 3/8: Linguistic Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism

So Jin PARK and Nancy ABELMANN, "Class Cosmopolitan Striving: Mothers' Management of English Education in South Korea," *Anthropological Quarterly* 77:4 (2004), 645-672

Wed., 3/10: Food & National Identity

Yael RAVIV, "Falafel: A National Icon," *Gastronomica* 3:3 (Summer 2003), 20-25

Boudewijn WALRAVEN, "Bardot soup and Confucians' meat: food and identity in global context," in *Asian food: the global and the local* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2001), 95-115

Lois N. MAGNER, "Korea," in *The Cambridge World History of Food, Vol. 2* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), 1183-1192

DISCUSSION POSTING #2: Due Wed., 3/10, 9 a.m.

Fri., 3/12, Mon., 3/15, Wed., 3/17: *Le Grand Chef* (*Sikkaek*, 2007, dir. JEON, Yun-su, 113 min.)

Priscilla Parkhurst FERGUSON, "Culinary Nationalism," *Gastronomica* 10:1 (Winter 2010)

Priscilla Parkhurst FERGUSON, "Epilogue: *Babette's Feast*. A Fable for Culinary France," in *Accounting for Taste: The Triumph of French Cuisine* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2004), 187-201

DISCUSSION POSTING #3: Due Wed., 3/17, 9 a.m.

III. Economy & Society

Fri., 3/19: Social Cooperation and Competition

SHIN, Yong-ha, "Social History of Ture Community and Nongak Music (I), (II)," *Korea Journal* 25:3-4 (March-April 1985), 4-15, 4-18

Mon., 3/22: Social Mobility

Nancy ABELMANN, Social Mobility: 'Facts' and 'Fictions,'" in *The Melodrama of Modernity: Women, Talk, and*

Class in Contemporary South Korea (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2003), 132-163

Wed., 3/24: Geography: The Colonial Era

HONG, Seong-tae, "From Mount Baekak to the Han River: A Road to Colonial Modernization," in *Impacts of Modernities* (Hong Kong: Hong University Press, 2004), 121-135

Fri., 3/26: Contemporary Culture in South Korea

Guest Lecture by Dr. Inkyu KANG (UW-Madison, Media and Cultural Studies)

PAPER DUE IN CLASS

IV. North Korea: Past and Present

Mon., 4/5: *Juche* Ideology

Suk-Young KIM, "Springtime for Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang: City on Stage, City as Stage," *The Drama Review* 51:2 (Summer 2007), 24-40

Wed., 4/7: Documentary: *A Day in the Life* (dir. Pieter FLEURY, 2004, 48 min.)

Ralph HASSIG & Kongdan OH, *The Hidden People of North Korea: Everyday Life in the Hermit Kingdom* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2009), 95-132

Fri., 4/9: North Korea Today

Ralph HASSIG & Kongdan OH, *The Hidden People of North Korea: Everyday Life in the Hermit Kingdom* (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield, 2009), 239-253

DISCUSSION POSTING #4: Due Friday, 4/9, by 9 a.m.

V. Contemporary South Korea

Mon., 4/12: Globalization & Neoliberalism

Anthony GIDDENS, *Runaway world: how globalization is reshaping our world* (New York: Routledge, 2003), 1-19.

David HARVEY, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 1-4, 153-172

Wed., 4/14: After the “IMF Crisis”

Read either

CHO, Uhn, “The Encroachment of Globalization into Intimate Life: The Flexible Korean Family in “Economic Crisis,” *Korea Journal* 45:3 (Autumn 2005), 8-35

or

KOO, Hagen, “The Changing Faces of Inequality in South Korea in the Age of Globalization,” *Korean Studies* 31(2007), 1-18

Fri., 4/16: Globalization and Food

BAK, Sangmee, “McDonald’s in Seoul: Food Choices, Identity, and Nationalism,” in *Golden Arches East: McDonald’s in East Asia* (Stanford, Calif., Stanford University Press, 1997), 136-160

Mon., 4/19: Paper Workshop

VI. Religions

Wed., 4/21: Shamanism

Laurel KENDALL, “Korean Shamans and the Spirit of Capitalism,” *American Anthropologist* 98:3 (September 1996), 512-527

Fri., 4/23: Christianity Today

Ju Hui Judy HAN, “Missionary,” *Aether: The Journal of Media Geography* 111 (Summer 2008), 58-83

Mon., 4/26: Open Topic — Students’ Choice

Readings TBA

VII. Final Stretch

Wed., 4/28 — Wed., 5/5: Student Presentations

PAPER REWRITES DUE IN CLASS ON FRI., 4/30

Fri., 5/7: Final Exam Prep

Thurs., 5/13

TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE IN MY OFFICE AT 5 P.M.