

## Syllabus (Fall 2021)

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|--|---|-----------------------|-------|
| Course Title                                 | Religions of Korea  | Course No.            | 35718 |
| Department / Major                           | School of Humanities /<br>Dept. of Christian Studies                        | 학점/시간<br>Credit/Hours | 3/3   |
| 수업시간/강의실<br>Class Time/ Classroom            | Tu. 02:00-03:15 p.m.<br>Th. 03:30-04:45 p.m.<br>경 209 (Shin Segyegwan #209) |                       |       |
| 담당교원<br>Instructor                           | Name: Myung-Sahm Suh  | Christian Studies     |       |
|  | Email: mssuh@ewha.ac.kr   | Tel: 02-3277-4161     |       |
| 면담시간/장소<br>Office Hours / Office<br>Location | TBA /<br>Inmun-gwan 407   |                       |       |

### I. Course Overview

#### 1. Course Description

This course addresses topics and themes that are relevant to understanding the nexus between religion and society in Korea. Students will not only learn about the (broadly conceived) religious phenomena but also familiarize themselves with the academic studies of religion. In doing so, they will develop critical understandings of varying issues related to religions in Korea such as the women's status in *Chosŏn* Korea, the East-West encounter, nationalism, violence, the Cold War, business entrepreneurship, xenophobia, conversion, and cannibalism.

#### 2. Prerequisites

None

#### 3. Course Format

| Lecture | Discussion | Field Study | Other |
|---------|------------|-------------|-------|
| 60%     | 30%        | 5%          | 5%    |

#### 4. Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- (a) Identify key topics and themes related to Korean religions
- (b) Become familiar with academic studies of religion
- (c) Develop an ability to engage in critical reading and analysis of texts

#### 5. Evaluation System

| Midterm Paper | Final Paper | Attendance | Participation |
|---------------|-------------|------------|---------------|
| 40%           | 40%         | 10%        | 10%           |

### Class Policy

- Please do not record lectures and discussions without prior consent.
- Be civil and open-minded when encountering opinions different from your own. Be prepared to engage in the free exchange of ideas without being hostile to the instructor or other students.

### II. Course Materials & Additional Readings

## Books

- Juhn Y. Ahn, *Transgression in Korea: Beyond Resistance and Control*, Univ. of Michigan Press, 2018.
- Don Baker & Franklin Rausch, *Catholics and Anti-Catholicism in Chosŏn Korea*, Univ. of Hawaii Press, 2018.
- Youngmin Kim and Michael J. Pettid, *Women and Confucianism in Chosŏn Korea: New Perspectives*, SUNY Press, 2012.
- Vermeersch, Sem. *The Power of the Buddhas: the politics of Buddhism during the Koryŏ dynasty (918-1392)*. Harvard University Press, 2008.
- Vladimir Tikhonov & Torkel Brekke, *Buddhism and Violence: Militarism and Buddhism in Modern Asia*, NY: Routledge, 2014.

## Journals

- American Sociological Review*  
*Journal of Korean Religions*  
*The Journal of Religion*  
*The Review of Korean Studies*

### III. Course Schedule (\* The following schedule is subject to change depending on the progress of the class)

| Week    | Date  | Topics & Class Assignments  |
|---------|-------|---|
| Week 01 | 09/02 | Course Intro  |
|         | 09/07 | How do we study (Korean) religion(s)? (I)<br>Reading(s):<br>(1) Steven Borowiec, "Why young South Koreans are turning away from religion," <i>Aljazeera</i> , May 28, 2017<br>( <a href="https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/05/young-south-koreans-turning-religion-170524144746222.html">https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/05/young-south-koreans-turning-religion-170524144746222.html</a> )<br>(2) Boudewijn Walraven, "Religion as a Moving Target," <i>JKR</i> 2 (2) (October, 2011): 9-23. |
| Week 02 | 09/09 | How do we study (Korean) religion(s)? (II)<br>Reading(s):<br>Boudewijn Walraven, "Religion as a Moving Target" (continued)  |
|         | 09/14 | Buddhism and the Goryeo Dynasty (I)<br>Reading(s):<br>Vermeersch, <i>The Power of the Buddhas</i> , pp. 75-147  |
| Week 03 | 09/16 | Buddhism and the Goryeo Dynasty (II)<br>Reading(s):<br>Vermeersch, <i>The Power of the Buddhas</i> , pp. 75-147 (continued)   |
|         | 09/21 | <b>No Class (Happy Chuseok)</b><br><b>Make-up assignment:</b> pay a visit to a religious site of your choosing and write a short (1~2 page) field report. This is due on <b>September 28<sup>th</sup></b>   |
| Week 04 | 09/23 | Buddhism and the Goryeo Dynasty (III)<br>Reading(s):<br>Vermeersch, <i>The Power of the Buddhas</i> , pp. 75-147 (continued)  |
|         | 09/28 | New Approaches to the Women Question in Confucianism (I)<br>Reading(s):<br>Kim & Pettid, <i>Women and Confucianism</i> (Ch.02)  |
| Week 05 | 09/30 | New Approaches to the Women Question in Confucianism (I)<br>Reading(s):<br>Kim & Pettid, <i>Women and Confucianism</i> (Ch.02 & Ch.05)  |

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|         | 10/05 | New Approaches to the Women Question in Confucianism (III)<br>Reading(s):<br>Kim & Pettid, <i>Women and Confucianism</i> (Ch.05)  |
| Week 06 | 10/07 | Religion & Nationalism (I)<br>Reading(s):<br>D. Baker & F. Rausch, <i>Catholics and Anti-Catholicism in Chosŏn Korea</i>  |
|         | 10/12 | Religion & Nationalism (II)<br>Reading(s):<br>D. Baker & F. Rausch, <i>Catholics and Anti-Catholicism in Chosŏn Korea</i> (continued)   |
| Week 07 | 10/14 | Catholicism & Nationalism (I)<br>Reading(s):<br>Jieun Han, "A Christian Pacifist: An Chunggŭn's Christian Ethics and Armed Struggle," <i>JKR</i> 9 (no.1) (April, 2018): 131-158.             |
|         | 10/19 | Catholicism & Nationalism (II)<br>Reading(s):<br>Jieun Han, "A Christian Pacifist: An Chunggŭn's Christian Ethics and Armed Struggle." (continued)  |
| Week 08 | 10/21 | Religion & the Cold War (I)<br>Reading(s):<br>Seongnae Kim, "Placing the Dead in the Postmemory of the Cheju Massacre in Korea," <i>JOR</i> 99 (no.1) (January, 2019): 80-97.                 |
|         | 10/26 | <b>No Class! (Midterm Break)</b><br>Q&A session (optional attendance)   |
| Week 09 | 10/28 | Religion & the Cold War (II)<br>Reading(s):<br>Seongnae Kim, "Placing the Dead in the Postmemory of the Cheju Massacre in Korea." (continued)<br><b>* Workshop on How to write a paper</b>    |
|         | 11/02 | Christianity & Democratization (I)<br>Reading(s):<br>Paul Chang, <i>Protest Dialectics</i> (Ch.04)  |
| Week 10 | 11/04 | Christianity & Democracy (II)<br>Reading(s):<br>Paul Chang, <i>Protest Dialectics</i> (continued)   |
|         | 11/09 | Buddhism & Violence (I)<br>Reading(s):<br>Vladimir Tikhonov & Torkel Brekke, <i>Buddhism and Violence: Militarism and Buddhism in Modern Asia</i><br><b>* Submit your final paper outline</b> |
| Week 11 | 11/11 | Buddhism & Violence (II)<br>Reading(s):<br>Vladimir Tikhonov & Torkel Brekke, <i>Buddhism and Violence: Militarism and Buddhism in Modern Asia</i> (continued)                                |
|         | 11/16 | Buddhism & Modernization (I)<br>Reading(s):<br>Florence Galmiche, "Upgrading Buddhism? Methods From the Business World in South Korean Buddhism," <i>RKS</i> 18 (2) (December, 2015): 35-61.  |
| Week 12 | 11/18 | Buddhism & Modernization (II)<br>Reading(s):<br>Florence Galmiche, "Upgrading Buddhism? Methods From the Business World in South Korean Buddhism." (continued)                                |
|         | 11/23 | Islamophobia (I)  |

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|---------|-------|--|
|         |       | Reading(s):<br>Gi Yeon Koo, "Islamophobia and the Politics of Representation of Islam in Korea," <i>JKR</i> 9 (no. 1) (April, 2018): 159-192.  |
| Week 13 | 11/25 | Islamophobia (II)<br>Reading(s):<br>Gi Yeon Koo, "Islamophobia and the Politics of Representation of Islam in Korea." (continued)  |
|         | 11/30 | Conversion to New Religious Movements (I)<br>Reading(s):<br>John Lofland, "Becoming a World-Saver: A Theory of Conversion to a Deviant Perspective," <i>ASR</i> 30 (no.6) (December, 1965): 862-875.                   |
| Week 14 | 12/02 | Conversion to New Religious Movements (II)<br>Reading(s):<br>John Lofland, "Becoming a World-Saver: A Theory of Conversion to a Deviant Perspective." (continued)  |
|         | 12/07 | Cannibalism (I)<br>Reading(s):<br>Se-Woong Koo, "Flesh Eaters and Organ Thieves: Locating Transgression in Korean Cannibalism," in Juhn Ahn ed. <i>Transgression in Korea: Beyond Resistance and Control</i> , 85-104. |
| Week 15 | 12/09 | Cannibalism (II)<br>Reading(s):<br>Se-Woong Koo, "Flesh Eaters and Organ Thieves: Locating Transgression in Korean Cannibalism" (continued)  |
|         | 12/14 | Final Discussion   |
| Week 16 | 12/16 | Q&A session (optional attendance)  |
|         | 12/21 | <b>Final paper due</b>   |

#### IV. Special Accommodations

According to the University regulation section #57-3, students with disabilities can request for special accommodations related to attendance, lectures, assignments, or tests by contacting the course professor at the beginning of semester. Based on the nature of the students' request, students can receive support for such accommodations from the course professor or from the Support Center for Students with Disabilities (SCSD). Please refer to the below examples of the types of support available in the lectures, assignments, and evaluations.

| Lecture  | Assignments  | Evaluation   |
|--|--|--|
| . Visual impairment: braille, enlarged reading materials<br>. Hearing impairment: note-taking Assistant<br>. Physical impairment: access to classroom, note-taking assistant | . Extra days for submission, alternative assignments | . Visual impairment: braille examination paper, examination with voice support, longer examination hours, note-taking assistant<br>. Hearing impairment: written examination instead of oral<br>. Physical impairment: longer examination hours, note-taking assistant |

- Actual support may vary depending on the course.

\* **The contents of this syllabus are not final—they may be updated.**