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**Pre-modern Korea in a Global Context**

**In-Person/ASU Sync**

FALL 2020

KOR/SLC 457; KOR/SLC 598

**General Studies Designation: G, HU [TBA]**

**Class:** Tu, Th. 12:00–1:15 pm (DH 206)

**Instructor:** Sookja Cho

**Office:** DH 305A

**Office phone:** 480-965-1264

**Email:** scho37@asu.edu

**Zoom meeting link**: [**https://asu.zoom.us/j/8928898427**](https://asu.zoom.us/j/8928898427)

**Office hours**: by appointment; please schedule a meeting at <https://calendly.com/sookjacho>. If my office hours presented at calendly.com are not convenient for you, we can set up an appointment outside those times. You can contact me via email for appointment or for other questions and problems.

# COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is aimed at increasing awareness of long but under-represented pre-modern Korea, often referred to as a Hermit Kingdom in the West, by offering a comprehensive outline of its literary and cultural traditions from historical and cross-cultural perspectives.

# Credits: 3 credit hours

Prerequisites: minimum 45 hours; Credit is allowed for only KOR 457 or SLC 457 or KOR 494 (Pre-modern Korean Literature and Cultural Exchange) or SLC 494 (Pre-modern Korean Literature and Cultural Exchange) OR Visiting University Student

# COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course has two goals: 1) to help students acquire essential knowledge of major historical events, cultural issues, and important literary works; 2) to help students engage in broader literary and cultural traditions beyond Korea and East Asia by locating pre-modern Korea in trans-disciplinary and transnational contexts.

To accomplish these goals, students will be given an opportunity to read a variety of texts, ranging from literary works (poetry and fiction), historical, philosophical, and religious documents, diaries, and travelogues, to important recent scholarly works in the field. Students are also required to read literary and cultural theories to help them formulate their own questions and arguments, and implement logical analysis in their writing. The course also utilizes TV shows, films, and other visual materials, as well as non-Korean literary works that are significant in understanding the interconnected relationships between Korea, China, and Japan.

# LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to: 1) identify major historical events, representative figures and documents related to them, and literary and cultural terms of pre-modern Korea; 2) demonstrate their ability to close read both original works (in translation) and secondary articles; 3) discern the differences in style, theme, and form of major literary forms; 4) critically analyze important topics and issues in pre-modern Korean history, literature, and culture and discuss them in a comparative context, particularly in relation to topics and issues in contemporary Korean and East Asian society and culture; 5) design and conduct an individual research project on a topic relating to Korea and East Asia in present and past; 6) apply and link their knowledge and understanding of Korea to their study of other East Asian countries and beyond; and 7) articulate their original thoughts and research outcomes in an academic manner.

# COURSE FORMATS

The class will combine lecture and discussion formats. All students are expected to participate in discussion regularly; all students will be assigned the responsibility of formulating discussion questions in rotation.

**COURSE TIME COMMITTMENT**

Students should expect to spend roughly 10 hours each week preparing for and actively participating in this course

# COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements of the course will consist of regular assigned readings in secondary works and the primary materials, either in the original or in English translation, and of occasional viewing of video clips both in class and at other times. There will be a few short assignments, in-class quizzes and examinations, and a final paper (10–15 pages.)

(1) Attendance, class participation, and weekly reading responses: 30%

Every three absences will lower your grade by one full letter. Students must complete all required readings before coming to class and bring those readings to class with them to actively and effectively engage in class discussion. Students are also required to post their feedback on each assigned reading on Discussion Board.

(2) In-class (on canvas) quizzes and examinations: 30%

There will be quizzes and exams (midterm and final) on the key terms and major issues covered in class. Detailed guidelines for these exams will be given in class. You can reschedule a quiz or an exam only if you have a valid reason for absence from the regular exam.

(3) In-class Presentation: 10%

Students are required to present to the class on an assigned topic. Presenters are expected to read extensively outside of class, offer their own insights on the topic and texts, and suggest discussion points to the class. Each student should consult with the instructor at least one week in advance of their presentation.

(4) Final paper: 30%

The final paper should be ca. 3500 words (10-15 pages, not including the list of references). The topic of the paper should be approved by the instructor. Students are required to submit and present a draft sketch in class. Final paper due date: **December 6** (no late papers will be accepted.)

Grades will be assigned based on the following scale

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *97+* | *A+* |
| *94+* | *A* |
| *90+* | *A-* |
| *87+* | *B+* |
| *84+* | *B* |
| *80+* | *B-* |
| *76+* | *C+* |
| *70+* | *C* |
| *60+* | *D* |
| *~59* | *E* |

**TOPICS**

Defining Premodern Korea: People, Land, and Language

Historical Overview: Premodern Korea in East Asia and the World

Foundation Myths and Cosmology

Silk Road and Cultural Exchange

Korean Villages in China

Korean Diasporas in Japan

Vietnamese in Koryo Korea

Westerners’ Travels to Chos**ŏ**n Korea

Chinese Space in Korean Literature and Arts

Premodern Korea in Chinese and Western Literature

Premodern Korea in Contemporary Popular Culture and Drama

# TEXTBOOKS

All required readings and audiovisual materials are available on Canvas. Students must bring reading materials (either hard copy or electronic copy) to class. Examples of the major textbooks are as follows:

Ebrey, Patricia, Anne Walthall, and James Palais. *Pre-Modern East Asia: To 1800*. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2008

Lee, Peter H. ed. *A Hisotry of Korean Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003

\_\_\_\_\_\_. *Anthology of Korean Literature: From Early Times to the Nineteenth Century*. Honolulu: The University Press of Hawaii, 1981

\_\_\_\_\_\_. *Sourcebook of Korean Civilization*, volumes 1. New York, NY: Columbia U Press, 1993

Pettid, Michael J, Gregory N. Evon, and Chan E. Park, eds. *Premodern Korean Literary Prose: An Anthology*, Columbia University Press, 2018

Peterson, Mark and Phillip Margulies. *A Brief History of Korea*. New York: Facts On File, Inc., 2010

Schmid, Andre. *Korea Between Empires 1985-1919*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2002

**COURSE POLICIES**

1. Attendance:

Students who cannot physically be on campus due to travel restrictions or personal health concerns can attend classes via ASU Sync; please contact the instructor in advance.

All students will be required to wear a face cover while in ASU buildings.

Be sure to arrive on time for class. Excessive tardiness will be subject to sanctions.

No absences will be allowed except under the following special circumstances:

Hospitalization

Family emergency

Accommodations for Religious Practices (ACD 304-04)

University sanctioned events activities (ACD 304-02)

Job/scholarship interviews (prior permission is required)

Sports-related absences with a note from the Athletic Department (prior permission is required)

Students may be asked to provide written verification for these absences. Advanced notice of absence is required.

(2) Use of Mobile Devices:

Students must bring a mobile device (laptop, iPad/Chromebook, smartphone) with them to class. A laptop is the recommended device. If students do not have one of these devices, please request one from the ASU Library

Use of such devices in class should be limited to zooming, reading assigned texts, and note taking (i.e. no web-browsing or email checking). Violation of this policy will adversely affect your grade.

(3) Expected Classroom Behavior:

Students should keep course discussion posts focused on the assigned topics. Inappropriate discussion posts may be deleted by the instructor.

During the discussion sessions, students should respect their peers’ opinions, regardless of differences in perspectives and interpretations. The free expression of ideas is the essence of academic discourse. It is important that we maintain an atmosphere in the classroom that does not inhibit such expression. Disagreement and debate is allowed (even encouraged), but students must respect the right of their peers to express and defend an opinion.

Any disruptive behavior, which includes ringing cell phones, listening to your mp3/iPod player, text messaging, constant talking, eating food noisily, reading a newspaper, will not be tolerated.

If students are asked to attend classes via Zoom, students are expected to use their web cameras so they can be seen. Students should ensure that background noises and distractions are removed (food, TVs, music, other people in the room). Students should dress appropriately for this academic meeting. They should remember that any inappropriate distracting behavior via a virtual meeting will be dealt with in the same manner as in the physical classroom.

(4) Incompletes:

NO incompletes will be issued without extraordinary and documented reasons. Permission for Incompletes is very rare. Students hoping to receive either an Incomplete MUST see the instructor well in advance.

(5) Copyrighted Materials:

All content in this course, including video lectures/meetings, presentations, assignments, discussions, quizzes, and exams is protected by copyright and may not be shared, uploaded, sold, or distributed.  Any recording of class sessions by students is prohibited, except as part of an accommodation approved by the Disability Resource Center.”

(6) Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:

Under the ASU Student Academic Integrity Policy:

“Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal.” For more information, see <https://provost.asu.edu/academic-integrity>.

(7) Policy against Threatening Behavior:

Under the ASU’s policy against threatening behavior (Student Services Manual SSM 104–02 “Handling Disruptive, Threatening or Violent Individuals on Campus”):

“All incidents and allegations of violent or threatening conduct by an ASU student (whether on-or off campus) must be reported to the ASU Police Department (ASU PD) and the Office of the Dean of Students. If either office determines that the behavior poses or has posed a serious threat to personal safety or to the welfare of the campus, the student will not be permitted to return to campus or reside in any ASU residence hall until an appropriate threat assessment has been completed and, if necessary, conditions for return are imposed. ASU PD, the Office of the Dean of Students, and other appropriate offices will coordinate the assessment in light of the relevant circumstances.”

(8) Accommodating Students with Disabilities:

Students who feel they will need disability accommodations in this class but have not registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) should contact DRC immediately. The DRC Tempe office is located on the first floor of the Matthews Center Building. DRC staff can also be reached at: (480) 965-1234 (V) or (480) 965-9000 (TTY). For additional information, visit:

www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc.

(9) Reporting Title IX Violations:

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity.  Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited.  An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university.  If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at <https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs>.

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence.  ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling>, is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately. ASU online students may access 360 Life Services, <https://goto.asuonline.asu.edu/success/online-resources.html>.

(10) Policy on Sexual Discrimination

Arizona State University is committed to providing an environment free of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for the entire university community, including all students, faculty members, staff employees, and guests. ASU expressly prohibits [discrimination](https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html#discrimination), [harassment](https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html#harassment), and [retaliation](https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html#retaliation) by employees, students, contractors, or agents of the university based on any protected status: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and genetic information.

(11) Copyrighted Materials

All content in this course, including video lectures/meetings, presentations, assignments, discussions, quizzes, and exams is protected by copyright and may not be shared, uploaded, sold, or distributed.

Students must refrain from uploading or submitting material that is not the student's original work to any website, course shell, or discussion used in this course or any other course unless the students first comply with all applicable copyright laws. Instructors reserve the right to delete materials on the grounds of suspected copyright infringement. Any recording of class sessions by students is prohibited, except as part of an accommodation approved by the Disability Resource Center.

(12) Syllabus Disclaimer

The syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Please remember to check your ASU email and the course canvas often.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**Week 1 Defining Pre-modern Korea**

TH 08/20 Introduction

**Week 2 Premodern Korea, A Hermit Kingdom?**

TU 08/25 Schultz, E. J. “Korea, A Hermit Nation”;

John, Duncan, "Myths and Truths about Premodern Korea" (2014)

[Assignment] “Chronology” (Please memorize it)

TH 08/27 “Introduction,” *A Brief History of Korea* (BHK)

[Assignment] Watch: “Window on Korean Culture”

[Recommend=R] Lee, “Introduction,” *A History of Korean Literature* (HKL)

[Recommend] Lee, Ch 1 “Language, forms, prosody, and themes,” HKL, 15–38 (esp. 22–30)

**Week 3 Ancient Korean Culture and Society**

TU 09/01 “Origins of Korean Culture,” *Sources of Korean Tradition* (SKT); Tan’gun myth

[R] James H. Grayson, “The Myth of Tan’gun: A dramatic Structural Analysis of a Korean Foundation Myth”

[R] Lee, Ch 2 “From Oral to Written Literature,” HKL

TH 09/03 Ch 1 “Early Settlements,” BHK

**Week 4 Silla and Koryŏ; Buddhism and Aristocratic Society**

TU 09/08 Ch 2 “Unified Silla and Koryŏ,” BHK

“Hyangga,” AKL, 17–21; Lee, Ch 3 “Hyangga,” HKL

TH 09/10 Biographies,” AKL, 22–36; “Changga,” AKL, 43–50;

Lee, Ch 5 “Koryŏ *song*,” HKL; “Prose Essays” and “Poetry in Chinese” and “by Zen Masters,” AKL, 51–69; Lee, Ch 6 “Koryŏ writings in Chinese,” HKL

**Week 5 Kingdom of Confucian Literati: Early and Middle Chosŏn**

TU 09/15 Ch 3 “Early and Middle Chos**ŏ**n,” BHK

“Songs of Flying Dragon,” AKL 73–78; Lee, Ch 7 “Early ChosŏnEulogies,” HKL

TH 09/17 Ch 4 “Late Chos**ŏ**n,” BHK

“Poetry in Chinese I & II,” AKL, 148–160; 290–293; Lee, Ch 12 “Chosŏn poetry in Chinese,” HKL; “Sijo I” & “Sijo II,” AKL, 92–118, 177–191; Lee, Ch 8 “Early Chosŏn *sijo*” and Ch 10 “Late Chosŏn sijo,” HKL

**Week 6 Silk Road and Cultural Encounters in Earlier Narratives**

TU 09/22 Ancient Japan and Korea:

“Husband Yono and Wife Seo”;

Ancient India and Korea:

“Samguk Yusa: Kara-guk”; “The Indian Princess Who Became a South Korean Queen.”

“Introduction,” *Samguk Yusa*

TH 09/24 Silk Road, and Arabic Culture:

Kim, “King Midas Tale in Ancient Korea”;

Lee, “Early Korea-Arabic Maritime Relations”

**Week 7 Pilgrimages, Diaries, and the Influence of Foreign Culture in Medical Korea**

TU 09/29 “Monks who traveled to India”; Silla Monk Hye Ch’o

Excerpts from *Hye Ch’o’s Diary: Memoir of the Pilgrimage to the Five Reigions of India*

TH 10/01 “Koreans in China,” in Edwin Reishauer, *Ennin’s Travels in T*‘*ang China*

[R] “Ennin’s Diary”; “Life in T‘ang China,” in *Ennin’s Travels in T*‘*ang China*

**Week 8 Koryŏ vs Yuan: Merchants, Pax Mongolica, and Cultural Exchange**

TU 10/06 Yun, “Popularization of Mongol Language and Culture in the Late Koryo”

TH 10/08 Lee, “Foreign Merchant’s visit to the Korean peninsula; 13-14th centuries”

# Week 9 East Asian War (1592-98) and Cultural Exchange: Korea and Japan

TU 10/27 Module Chapter, “Korea-Japanese War and Cultural Exchange”

Choi, “War in Korea and Japan Literature”

[R] Turnbull, “Samurai Invasion”

TH 10/29 Ha, “War and Cultural Exchange”

**Week 10 East Asian War (1592-98) and Cultural Exchange II: Korea and the West**

TU 11/03 Cheong and Lee, “Sixteenth Century Western Books on Korea”

Cory, “Gregoro De Cespedes, “Korea’s First European Visitor”

[R] Underwood, “Occidental Literature on Korea

[R] Gompertz, “Notes on Earliest Western Contacts with Korea”

*Occasional Papers on Korea*, no.2 (March 1974), 1–42

TH 11/05 Donald Baker, “The Martyrdom of Paul Yun”

# Week 11 Across East Asia: War, Family, and Travels in Seventeenth- century Novels

TU 10/13 War, Family, and Travel; Cho, “Tale of Ch’oe Chŏk” (pp.132-149)

[R] John Meskill, *Ch'oe Pu's Diary: A Record of Drifting Across the Sea*

TH 10/15 Cho, “Tale of Ch’oe Chŏk” (pp.149-161)

[R] Ch1, in *Taew*ŏ*nji* (My own translation manuscript will be distributed)

**Week 12 Official Travels and Cultural Exchange in China**

TU 11/10 Module Chapter: “Korean Envoys and Sino-Korean Exchange”

Ledyard, “Korean Travelers in China over Four Hundred Years, 1488–1887”

Walraven, “Reluctant Travelers: Shifting Interpretation of the Observations of Hendrik Hamel and his Companions”

TH 11/12 Ledyard, “Yi Sugwang’s Brush-Tlaks with Phung Khdc Khoan in Beijing in 1598”

Ledyard, “Hong Taeyong and his Peking Memoir”

# Week 13 Money, Romance, and Class: Changes in Late Chosŏn Society and Culture

TU 10/20 Lee, “Student Chu”

TH 10/22 Watch Films (Write a Critique)

**Week 14 Westerners’ Travels to Late Chosŏn Korea**

TU 11/17 Hamel’s Life in Korea; Ledyard, *The Dutch come to Korea*.

[R] Robert Neff, “Korea’s Inhospitable Shores: Shipwrecks of Cheju Island”

TH 11/19 Swartout, JR.,” Journey to Old Korea”

Hawley, “Foulk’s Journey in Korea”

**Week 15 Westerners’ Travels to Chosŏn Korea II**

TU 11/24 Isabella Bishop, *Korea and her Neighbors*, esp. 23–65; 445–449

[R] Rutt, “An Early Koreanologist Eli Barr Landis”

TH 11/26 no class (Thanksgiving)

**Week 16 Conclusion: Korea and Globalization**

TU 12/01 Homer Hulbert Biography; Duan, “Chos**ŏ**n-Western Discourse”;

“United-States-in Korea”

[R] Neff, “Two Early Articles about Korea”

TH 12/03 M. Seth, “Premodern Korea in a Global Context”

[R] Lee, “Korea in Foreign Textbook”

[R] Gompertz, “Western Lit on Korea from the Earliest Times Until 1950:

**\* December 06 Final paper due**