

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)
School of Digital Humanities and Computational Social Sciences
HSS.20153—Introduction to Korean Art

Instructor: Taylor Pak, Ph.D.
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Office hours: Zoom meeting (by appointment)
Classroom: TBA
Class hours: M/W 16:00-17:15
TA: Chihyuk Ahn (chihyukk@kaist.ac.kr)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the visual and material culture of Korea from prehistoric times through the Joseon dynasty (1392-1910). It presents key artifacts and artistic traditions in a chronological framework, exploring them within their historical, cultural, religious, and social contexts. While the lectures primarily focus on the diverse works of art that emerged within the Korean peninsula, attention will also be given to the transcultural dynamics of East Asian art history.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Identify, interpret, and discuss significant works of Korean art.
- Compare and contrast the cultural artifacts and artistic traditions of Korea.
- Define and explain key concepts and terminology introduced in class, including various approaches to understanding visual arts.
- Cultivate existing interests and discover new perspectives in the arts of Korea.

TEXTBOOK & COURSE MATERIALS

Assigned readings are selected from the following list of publications:

Park, J. P., Juhyung Rhi, Burglid Jungmann, and Dana Arnold, eds. *A Companion to Korean Art*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2020. (E-book available on the library website)

Portal, Jane. *Korea: Art and Archaeology*. New York: Thames & Hudson, 2000.

Shin, Michael D. ed. *Korean History in Maps: From Prehistory to the Twenty-First Century*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

❖ Other course materials will be provided as PDF files, including lecture slides and a study guide for each scheduled lecture topic. It is highly recommended that you use the lecture slides to take notes while watching the lectures, as they will help reinforce key concepts and support your understanding of the material.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course assessment is divided into four parts:

Attendance/Participation	25%
Presentation/Assignment	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

Grading Scale:

A ⁺	4.3	97-100	C ⁺	2.3	75-77
A ⁰	4.0	94-96	C ⁰	2.0	72-74
A ⁻	3.7	90-93	C ⁻	1.7	67-71
B ⁺	3.3	86-89	D ⁺	1.3	64-66
B ⁰	3.0	83-85	D ⁰	1.0	61-63
B ⁻	2.7	78-82	D ⁻	0.7	53-60
			F	0.0	0

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Regular attendance and active participation are essential for success in this course and will significantly impact your final grade. More than **four unexcused absences** will result in an automatic failing grade (F). Three instances of tardiness will count as one absence. To request an excused absence, please email the TA, Chihyuk Ahn, with your request and the appropriate formal documentation.

PRESENTATION AND ASSIGNMENT

The presentation will be a group assignment. Students may form their own groups and select a presentation date via a link available on KLMS after the midterm exam. In addition to the oral presentation, each group must submit a summary of their presentation along with a brief description of each member's contribution. Detailed guidelines will be provided after the midterm.

EXAMS

The midterm and final exams will consist of written responses comprising two main components:

1. **Slide Identification:** Identify “unknown” artworks by providing the artist (if known) and the approximate date or period. Explain the work's significance in relation to themes and issues discussed in class.
2. **Slide Comparison:** Identify both artworks (each of which may be “known” or

“unknown”) and then compare them by discussing key similarities and differences within the context of 20th-century Korean art.

Note: Details on the exam format, submission process, and grading criteria will be provided during the review sessions, which will include sample questions and preparation guidance.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The schedule below is subject to adjustment to meet the class's needs. Weekly lecture topics and course materials will be posted on KLMS. Please check regularly for updates.

Week 1	3/2	Independence Movement Day (Substitute Holiday) (no class)
	3/4	Course Introduction (Zoom Meeting)
Week 2	3/9	Prehistoric Art <i>Portal, Korea: Art and Archaeology</i> , 23-41. <i>Shin, Korean History in Maps</i> , 4-7.
	3/11	Funerary Art: Goguryeo Tomb Murals Hwi-joon Ahn, “Development of Goguryeo Tomb Murals,” <i>Korean Art & Archaeology</i> 9 (2015): 8-31.
Week 3	3/16	Funerary Art: Goguryeo Tomb Murals
	3/18	Funerary Art: Baekje and Silla Kingdoms Hyunsook Kang, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 107-132.
Week 4	3/23	Buddhist Sculptures: Three Kingdoms and Unified Silla Sunkyung Kim, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 57-85.
	3/25	Buddhist Sculptures: Three Kingdoms and Unified Silla
Week 5	3/30	Goryeo Buddhist Painting Yoonjung Seo, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 183-204.
	4/1	Goryeo Buddhist Painting
Week 6	4/6	Goryeo Buddhist Sculpture Sun-ah Choi, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 159-182.
	4/8	Goryeo Ceramics Namwon Jang, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 135-158.
Week 7	4/13	Midterm Review Day
	4/15	Midterm Exam

Week 8	Midterm Exam Week (no class)	
Week 9	4/27	The Rise of Confucianism and Joseon Portraits Insoo Cho, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 263- 290.
	4/29	Joseon Court Art Burglind Jungmann, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 343-370.
Week 10	5/4	Early Joseon Painting Insoo Cho, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 263- 290.
	5/6	Late Joseon Painting Chin-Sung Chang, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 291-32.
Week 11	5/11	Joseon Ceramics: Buncheong and Porcelain Soyoung Lee, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 321-342.
	5/13	Joseon Buddhist Art Unsok Song, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 371-402.
Week 12	5/18	Group Presentation
	5/20	Group Presentation
Week 13	5/25	Buddha's Birthday (Substitute Holiday) (no class)
	5/27	Group Presentation
Week 14	6/1	Group Presentation
	6/3	Election Day (no class)
Week 15	6/8	Final Review Day
	6/10	Final Exam
Week 16	Final Exam Week (no class)	