

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

Instructor: Taylor Pak, Ph.D.

Email: taylorpak@kaist.ac.kr

Office hours: Zoom meeting (by appointment)

Classroom: Pre-recorded lectures only

Class hours: Friday 15:00-18:00

TA: Chihyuk Ahn (chihyukk@kaist.ac.kr)

Important Note: This course is open only to students on a leave of absence while completing mandatory military service in Korea.

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.

Course Format and Schedule:

- The course features pre-recorded lectures.
- Lecture videos will be uploaded to KLMS according to the weekly lesson plans and will be available every Friday during class hours (3:00-6:00 PM).
- Once posted, lectures will remain accessible until the following Thursday at 11:55 PM, giving you about seven days to complete the assigned videos. (Please refer to the weekly schedule on KLMS for specific time restrictions.)

- Attendance will be tracked based on recognized learning hours.

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.

❖ All 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 & GRADING

The course assessment is divided into four parts:

Attendance	20%
Assignment	10%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%

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 POLICY

Students must complete **100% of the recognized learning hours** to be marked present. This requires watching all assigned lecture videos each week. Completing less than 100% of the required learning hours will be recorded as tardy. **Three tardies** will count as one absence.

Unexcused absences exceeding **two** will automatically result in a failing grade (F) for the course. Requests for excused absences must be submitted via email and accompanied by appropriate official documentation.

ASSIGNMENTS

Students are required to complete **two assignments** for this course. Each assignment consists of viewing a designated documentary and submitting a one-page summary. Detailed instructions, including submission guidelines and deadlines, will be posted on KLMS.

EXAMS

The midterm and final exams are open-book, take-home assessments and can be accessed via a Google Forms link posted on KLMS. The exam window will remain open for three days, during which students must submit their completed exam.

The exams will primarily consist of slide identification and slide comparison, covering both known and unknown works of art. Detailed information on the exam format, along with sample questions, will be provided during the **midterm and final review sessions**.

COURSE SCHEDULE

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

Week 1	3/6	Course Introduction
Week 2	3/13	Prehistoric Art Portal, Prehistoric Art, 23-41. Shin, <i>Korean History in Maps</i> , 4-7. Assignment 1: “The Bangudae Petroglyphs” (documentary)
Week 3	3/20	Funerary Art: Goguryeo Tomb Murals Hwi-joon Ahn, “Development of Goguryeo Tomb Murals,” <i>Korean Art & Archaeology</i> 9 (2015): 8-31.

Week 4	3/27	Funerary Art: Baekje and Silla Kingdoms Hyunsook Kang, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 107-132.
Week 5	4/3	Buddhist Sculptures: Three Kingdoms and Unified Silla Sunkyung Kim, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 57-85.
Week 6	4/10	Goryeo Buddhist Painting Yoonjung Seo, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 183-204.
Week 7	4/17	Midterm Review
Week 8	4/24	Midterm Exam (4/24-4/26)
Week 9	5/1	Goryeo Buddhist Sculpture Sun-ah Choi, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 159-182.
Week 10	5/8	Goryeo Celadon Namwon Jang, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 135-158.
Week 11	5/15	The Rise of Confucianism and Joseon Portraits Insoo Cho, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 263- 290
Week 12	5/22	Joseon Court Art Burglind Jungmann, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 343-370.
Week 13	5/29	Early Joseon Painting Insoo Cho, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 263- 290. Late Joseon Painting Chin-Sung Chang, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 291-32.
Week 14	6/5	Joseon Buddhist Art Unsok Song, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 371-402. Assignment 2: “여섯조각부처, 영산 회상도 복원프로젝트” (documentary)
Week 15	6/12	Joseon Ceramics Soyoung Lee, <i>A Companion to Korean Art</i> , 321-342. Final Review
Week 16	6/19	Final Exam (6/19-6/21)