

**ASCE UN 1363**  
**Introduction to East Asian Civilization: Korea**  
Mon. & Wed. 11:10-12:25PM



Instructor: Seong Uk Kim

Office: 401 Kent Hall

Email: sk4236@columbia.edu

Office Hours: Friday 2:10-4:10pm (or by appointment)

Teaching Assistants: Yijun Wang (yw2392@columbia.edu)/ Abigail MacBain (aim2121@columbia.edu)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course surveys the history of Korea from ancient times through the twentieth century. We will explore the culture and history of the Korean peninsula, both South and North, from ancient times to the present with a focus on the Chosŏn Dynasty (1392-1910) and the twentieth century. The subject matter of the course is the distinctive evolution of Korean civilization within the East Asian cultural sphere and beyond, from its myths of origin through its struggles to survive amidst powerful neighbors, down to the twentieth-century challenges of colonial domination and its poisonous legacies, war and division, and the puzzles of redefining a hierarchical Neo-Confucian state in the context of global capitalism. While dealing with the broad scope of Korea in the historical context, building on the key aspects of pre-modern and modern Korean culture, we will move chronologically through major historical, political, and social moments that inform contemporary Korean identity, and arrive at the particulars of North and South Korean societies today. Incorporating feature films, documentaries, literatures, and original sources in translation, we will examine not only Korea's past but also how Korea's past shapes Korea as it is now and as it might evolve in the future.

### **REQUIRED READINGS**

The following books are mandatory reading and are available at Book Culture, 536 West 112th Street, and on reserve at C.V. Starr East Asian Library, Kent Hall.

- 1) Carter Eckert et al., *Korea Old and New: A History* (Seoul: Ilchogak, 1990)
- 2) Peter H. Lee & W. T. de Bary eds., *Sources of Korean Tradition* vol. 1 (New York, Columbia University Press, 1997)
- 3) Yongho Ch'oe, Peter Lee and W. T. de Bary. *Sources of Korean Tradition*, vol. 2 (Columbia University Press, 2000)
- 4) Charles K. Armstrong, *The Koreas* (Routledge: second edition, 2014)

All other readings are available online in Course Works as PDF files. Students should download and print out a copy of each reading to write on and bring to class.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Attendance/Participation: This course will be run as lecture-discussion. I expect you to attend each class meeting and to come a) on time, b) having read the assigned material, c) having prepared any required assignments, d) with the appropriate course materials in hand, and e) ready to participate in discussion with your peers.
- 2) Weekly web Post: Each week, students are required to post a short review (approx. 150 to 200 words) of the coming week's readings on your TA's Course Works by midnight Sunday, which should lay out your critical understanding and analysis of the readings, and 1-2 questions or issues that you would like to raise for discussion. The posting will be the basis of the discussion section.
- 3) Two response papers (2/21 & 4/11): Students are required to write two short response papers to study questions distributed in advance (4 pages, typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced). Since response papers are short, please avoid summaries and excessive citation. State a strong point of view and argue that opinion with material from the readings.
- 4) Quizzes: There will be four UNANNOUNCED quizzes throughout the course. These quizzes will focus on the understanding of main terms and concepts covered in class and in the readings. They will normally consist of short-answer questions and should take no longer than 10 minutes of class time at most.
- 5) Midterm Examination (3/7)
- 6) Final Examination (TBD)

## GRADING

You have a vital role to play in determining the success of this course. Be prompt. Come prepared with day's assignment. Grades will be determined as follows (Percentages are approximate):

1) Attendance/ Participation/ Weekly posts:	20%
2) Two response papers:	20%
3) Quizzes:	5%
4) Midterm exam:	25%
5) Final exam:	30%
Total:	100%

## COURSE POLICY

- 1) Academic Integrity: Plagiarism – the use of another person's words or ideas without citation – will not be tolerated in any written assignment. You are expected to follow the university guidelines concerning academic honesty and will work in accordance to the student the Honor Code. More specific information about academic integrity and Honor Code can be found on the website at:

<https://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/academicintegrity>  
<https://www.college.columbia.edu/ccschonorcode>

2) Attendance is mandatory. THREE unexcused absences will result in an F grade. If you have to leave early for emergency reasons, please tell me before the class starts.

3) Response Papers: Topics will be announced. Students are expected to submit only work that has been proofread for grammatical and stylistic accuracy and coherence. Formal scholarly language is to be used, which means no contractions, slang or colloquial phrases. Footnotes or endnotes are expected. Internal parenthetical citations are NOT acceptable.

4) Late Assignments: Students should be aware that many course components are time-sensitive. Students are expected to complete all work on time, and late papers will NOT be accepted without prior approval of the instructor. Unexcused late papers will be deducted a full letter grade for each late day (i.e. A to a B, B to a C...). NO make-up midterm/final exams will be given except in extreme situations approved in advance by the instructor, where the student can provide satisfactory documentation. However, there will be NO reduction of penalty for any of the following: the pressure of other course demands, paid employment, volunteer work, vacation, athletics, theatre arts, oversleeping, etc. Prompt notification in writing is essential if exceptional circumstances prevent attendance or timely completion of course requirements. Students that need academic accommodations should make prior arrangement with the course instructor.

5) Electric Devices: All communication devices must be turned off for the duration of the class, and laptops may be used ONLY to take notes. No camera and no recording in any devices are allowed in this class unless agreed by all members of the class.

6) Final note: This syllabus may be modified throughout the semester, and it is the responsibility of each student to keep up to date of any and all announcements made in class. Always bring your syllabus to class to record any changes that might be announced.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1**

Jan. 17 Course Introduction

*Ancient Korea, Three Kingdoms, and the Koryŏ Dynasty*

### **Week 2**

Jan. 22 Foundation Myths and the Three Kingdoms

*Korea Old and New*: 1-41

*Sources of Korean Tradition* Volume I (hereafter *Sources* 1): "Origins of Korean Culture," 1: 1-17; 18-21; 23-26 (King Kwanggaet'o Stele); 34-5; 54-6

Jan. 24 Unified Silla to Koryŏ

*Korea Old and New*: 42-67

*Sources* 1: 57-69 (by the end of Kang Su); 71-3 (Ch'oe Ch'iwŏn); 73-5 (Taoism and Yŏn Kaesomun); 78-82; 117-120

### **Week 3**

Jan. 29 The Koryŏ Society, Religion, and Regionalism

*Korea Old and New*: 68-85

*Sources* 1:143-157; 176-8 (by the end of Ch'oe Ch'ung's Academy); 182-183 (Family & King Sŏngjong: Rescript of Filial Piety); 187-189

Jan. 31 Mongol Rule and Collapse

*Korea Old and New*: 86-106

*Sources* 1: 190-6; 200-208 (from Relations with the Mongols); 216-8; 224-6; 237-9 (Publication of the Tripitaka); 243-5 (Geomancy to King T'aejo and Confucian Advice); 251-257

### *The Chosŏn Dynasty (1392-1910)*

### **Week 4**

Feb. 05 Early Chosŏn: Recentralization and Political culture

*Korea Old and New*: 107-121; 124-143

*Sources* 1:271-9; 293-6; 300-1 (The Recruitment Examination)

\*Chai-sik Chung, "Chŏng Tojŏn: "Architect" of Yi Dynasty Government and Ideology," in W. T. de Bary and J K Haboush, eds., *The Rise of Neo- Confucianism in Korea* (Columbia University Press, 1985), pp. 59-88

Feb. 07 The Imjin War and Manchu Invasions (1592-1636)

*Korea Old and New*: 122-4; 143-154

\*Yi Sun-sin, Nanjung Ilgi: War Diary of Admiral of Yi Sun-sin, 152-162; 219-245; 257 -260.

\*"Open Letters: Patriotic Exhortations from the Imjin War"; "Letters by Prisoners of the Imjin War"; "Letters Sent Home by Royal Hostage," in Jahyun Kim Haboush ed. *Epistolary Korea: Letters in the Communicative Space of the Chosŏn, 1392-1910* (Columbia University Press, 2009): 121-132; 336-41; 342-5 (A Letter from Prince Pongnim)

### **Week 5**

Feb. 12 Late Chosŏn Society: *yangban*, family, and Confucianization

*Sources* 2: 162-171 (Secondary Sons and Inheritance Practices)

\*Pak, Chiwŏn, "The Story of a Yangban" in Peter Lee ed., *Anthology of Korean Literature: From Early Times of the Nineteenth Century* (University of Hawaii Press, 1981), 222-25.

(ebook) Martina Deuchler, "The Transformation of Confucianism to Korea," *The Confucian Transformation of Korea: A Study of Society and Ideology* (Harvard-Yench'ing Institute, 1992), pp. 3-27

Feb. 14 Women and Other Social Classes in Late Chosŏn

*Sources* 1: 316-21 (The Position of Women)

*Sources* 2: 46-52 (Women's Education); 67-9 (Yi Pinghŏgak)

(ebook) Martina Deuchler, "Confucian Legislation: The Consequences for Women," in Deuchler, *Confucian Transformation of Korea*, pp. 231-281.

\*Hwang Kyung Moon, *Beyond Birth: Social Status in the Emergence of Modern Korea* (Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 2004), pp. 17-41.

Ch'unhyang edited (film)

### **Week 6**

Feb. 19 Buddhism and Neo-Confucianism in Chosŏn Korea

*Sources* 1: 312-3; 382-391

Sung-Eun Thomas Kim, "Buddho-Confucian Rituals, Filial Piety, and Ritual Monks," *The Review of Korean Studies* 17.1(2014): 189-211.

\*Robert E. Buswell, Jr. "Buddhism Under Confucian Domination: The Synthetic Vision of Sŏsan Hyujŏng," in *Culture and the State in Late Chosŏn Korea*, 134–159

Feb. 21 Religions and Popular Culture in Late Chosŏn Korea

*Korea Old and New*: 155-192

\*Boudewijn Walraven, "Popular Religion in a Confucianized Society," in JaHyun Kim Haboush and Martina Deuchler eds. *Culture and the State in Late Chosŏn Korea* (Harvard University East Asia Center, 1999): 160-198

**\*\*First response paper due in the class\*\***

### **Week 7**

Feb. 26 Encounters with the West

*Korea Old and New*: 193-230

*Sources* 2: 117-142; 235-44 (The Defense of Confucian Orthodoxy); 248-253 (Yu Kilchun); 273-276 (Kabo Reform Edicts, King's Fourteen-Article Oath)

Feb. 28 Korean Responses to Modernity and Patriotic Enlightenment

*Korea Old and New*: 231-253

*Sources* 2: 278-85 (Independence Club documents and demand for democratic reform); 312-13 (Chang Chiyŏn: We Wail Today)

\*Sin, Ch'aeho, "Introduction to A New Discourse on Reading History" in *Sourcebook of Korean Civilization*, vol. II, pp. 423-5

*Colonialism (1910-1945) & Liberation, Division, and War (1945-1953)*

### **Week 8**

Mar. 05 The End of Chosŏn Dynasty and Japan's Seizure of Korea

\*Michael E. Robinson, *Korea's Twentieth Century Odyssey: A Short History* (hereafter *Odyssey*): 36-46

Mar. 07 **Mid-Term Exam**

### **Week 9**

Mar. 19 Independence Movements

\**Odyssey*: 47-75

*Sources* 2: 334-339 (March First Movement documents); 322-5 (Development of New Literature)

**\*\*In-class Film Screening: "YMCA Baseball Team" (Changeable)**

Mar. 21 Colonial Modernity and Assimilation

\**Odyssey*: 76-99

\*Hildi Kang, "A Map Changed My Life," *Under the Black Umbrella: Voices from Colonial Korea, 1910-1945* (Cornell University Press, 2001): 24-36

\*True Stories of the Korean Comfort Women, in Keith Howard ed.; Trans. Young Joo Lee (London, Cassell, 1995): 1-10; 65-69; 104-113; 177-184

\*\*"YMCA Baseball Team" (finish)

### **Week 10**

Mar. 26 Liberation, Division, and Foreign Occupations North and South

*Korea Old and New*: 327-346

*Sources 2*: 382-393

Charles K. Armstrong, *The Koreas* (hereafter *The Koreas*): 1-15.

Mar. 28 TBA

### **Week 11**

Apr. 02 TBA

Apr. 04 The Korean War and its Memories

\*Bruce Cumings, "The Course of the War," in Cumings, *The Korean War: A History* (Modern Library, 2011): 1-36

\*David R. McCann, "Our Forgotten War: The Korean War in Korean and American Popular Culture", in Philip West, Steven I. Levine and Jackie Hiltz eds, *America's Wars in Asia: A Cultural Approach to History and Memory* (Armonk, M. E. Sharpe, 1997): 65-83

\*Suhi Choi, *Embattled Memories: Contested Meanings in Korean War Memorials* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 2014), Ch. 5 "'Shattering' of Memories: The Statue of MacArthur": 95-114

### *The Two Koreas (1953-Present)*

### **Week 12**

Apr. 09 North Korea and Nuclear Threat

*Sources 2*: 419-425 (Kim Il Sung and Juch'e)

*The Koreas*: 40-61 and 88-110.

\*Heonik Kwon, and Byung-Ho Chung, "The Great National Bereavement 1994," in Kwon and Chung, *North Korea: Beyond Charismatic Politics* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2012)

Apr. 11 Nation-building in the South: Syngman Rhee

*Korea Old and New*: 347-359.

*Sources 2*: 384-387.

Keiran Macrae, "Post-Cold War Conservative Reappraisals of Syngman Rhee," *Seoul Journal of Korean Studies* 29.2 (2016): 327-342 (Not the whole article!!)

**\*\*Second response paper due in the class\*\***

### **Week 13**

Apr. 16 Pak Chung Hee (Park Chŏnghŭi) and Military Dictatorship

*Korea Old and New*: 359-367.

*Sources 2*: 395-400 (Park Chŏnghŭi)

\*Pak Chung Hee, *The Country, the Revolution, and I*: 19-24

\*Nak-Chung Paik, "How to Think about the Park Chung Hee Era," in Kim and Sorensen, eds. *Reassessing the Park Chung Hee Era 1961-1979* (University of Washington Press, 2011):85-94

Apr. 18 Democratization in the South

*Sources* 2: 400-411.

\*Odyssey: 137-145 and 167-89

\*Kim Chi Ha, "The Story of a Sound," in David R. McCann, trans., *The Middle Hour: Selected Poems of Kim Chi Ha*: 33-43

\*Cater Eckert, "A Gentle Voice in the Darkness: The Musical Genius of Kim Min'gi":1-4

#### **Week 14**

Apr. 23 Costs of Success in the South

*Korea Old and New*: 388-418.

*The Koreas*: 22-31

Apr. 25 Clashes of Conservatives and Liberals: Candlelight Revolution in 2017

Cho Kyuhoon, "Another Christian Right?," *Social Compass* 61.3(2014): 310-327.

\*"The History of a Scandal: How South Korea's President Was Impeached," *The Diplomat*, Jan. 24, 2017.

#### **Week 15**

Apr. 30 K-Pop and Korea amidst Globalization

*The Koreas*, 32-34 and 111-114

John Lie, "What Is the K in K-pop? South Korean Popular Music, the Culture Industry, and National Identity," *Korea Observer* 43.3 (Autumn 2013): 339 – 363