

HIST 108: Introduction to East Asian History – Korea
Spring 2017
Charles Kim (University of Wisconsin-Madison)



The Cheonggye Stream in Seoul: From the turn of the 20th century to the early 21st century

Course Description:

Korea has a long and rich history that provides a unique vantage point for understanding major processes in East Asia and the world. This course explores Korean history from the fourteenth century to the present. The first part of the course delves into Confucian social changes during the Joseon (Chosŏn) Dynasty (1392- 1910). The second part focuses on social realities for Koreans under Japanese colonial rule (1910-1945). The final part turns to the contemporary era (1945 to present) to shed light on national division, social movements, and everyday life in South Korea and North Korea.

Course Objectives:

- 1) Acquire a solid understanding of the major eras, political events, social realities, and intellectual trends in Korean history, 1392 to present.
- 2) Hone your ability to identify historically significant information in primary sources, short stories, and films.

- 3) Engage in historical thinking.
- 4) Make connections between texts, course topics, and broader issues of the past and present—within and beyond Korea.
- 5) Learn interactively.

Required Texts:

Kyung Moon Hwang, *A History of Korea: An Episodic Narrative*, 2nd ed. (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). Referred to in Course Schedule as “Hwang.”

Other readings and films will be made available for students to view electronically on or through Canvas on Learn@UW: <https://learnuw.wisc.edu/>

Course Requirements:

- 1) Participation: 13%
- 2) Facilitate Discussion: 2% (A number of you may end up doing this with a partner).
- 3) Quizzes (9 total; lowest 2 scores are dropped; due by 8 am on the morning of class): 3%
- 4) Assignments (14 total; lowest 3 scores are dropped; due by 8 am on the morning of class): 16%
- 5) Responses (7 total, 250-325 words each; you won't have to submit a response on the week that you facilitate discussion; your single lowest score is dropped; due by 8 am on the morning of class): 16%
- 6) Essay 1 (4-5 double-spaced pages): 10%
- 7) Essay 2 (7-8 double-spaced pages): 20%
- 8) Take-home final exam (7-8 double-spaced pages): 20%

Grading Scheme:

92-100%	A	87-91.9%	AB	82-86.9%	B
77-81.9%	BC	70-76.9%	C	60-69.9%	D

Course Policies:

- 1) Be sure to bring easily accessible copies of the assigned course readings (and notes for films), as well as your own written assignments (if applicable), to each lecture and discussion section.
- 2) I will regularly send course announcements, changes to the syllabus, and useful links. You are responsible for checking your UW email account daily, and for reading all course-related emails. If you have any questions about them, ask me in class or by email. All emails will be archived on Canvas under Announcements.

- 3) Laptops, tablets, or smartphones may be used only to refer to course readings and course notes. Texting, surfing the Internet, or doing something else unrelated to this course detracts from the learning experience. If you appear to be off task, then the course proctor or I will check in to see what you are doing.
- 4) Plagiarism – the use of another person’s words or ideas without citation – will not be tolerated in any assignment or essay for this course. For more on how to avoid plagiarism, see the Writing Center’s “Writer’s Handbook”: <http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QuotingSources.html>.

Academic Accommodations for Students:

Please let me know at the start of the semester if you have a need for an accommodation in his course. If you have any questions about this or require any assistance, feel free to contact me or the McBurney Disability Resource Center

Course Schedule:

Wed., 1/18 – Course Introduction

I. THE JOSEON (CHOSŎN) ERA (1392-1910)

Fri., 1/20 – Establishing the Joseon Dynasty

- *Read* Hwang, chapter 7
- *Read* “Founding the Chosŏn (Joseon) Dynasty,” “King T’aejo: Founding Edict,” 271-274
- *Read* “Political Thought in Early Chosŏn,” “Ruling the New Dynasty,” “Kwŏn Kŭn: On Royal Action,” 279-281
- *Do Assignment* (Canvas)

Mon., 1/23 – Korea’s Confucian Transformation

- *Do Assignment* (To get started on Google Docs)
- *Read* Hwang, chapter 8
- *Read* “The Sunch’ŏn Kims: Vignettes of Family Life Through Letters,” 269-276
- *Take Quiz* (Canvas)

Wed., 1/25 – Confucian Gender Norms

- *Read PS:* SONG Siyŏl, “Instructions to My Daughter,” 49-52
- *Read PS:* YI Tŏngmu, “Small Manners for Scholars,” 60-66
- *Do Assignment*

Fri., 1/27 – Visualizing Joseon Society and State

- *Watch: Chunhyang* (Ch'unhyangjön, dir. IM Kwon-taek, 2000)
- *Post Response 1* – due by 7 am on Canvas Discussions

Mon., 1/30 – The Mid-Dynasty Invasions

- *Read* Hwang, chapter 9
- *Read* Kang Hang "An Exhortation to Koreans Still Held Prisoner in Japan," 23-27, 145-148.
- *Do Assignment*

Wed., 2/1 – Women's Lives in a Patriarchal Society (1)

- *Read* John Duncan, "The *Naehun* and the Politics of Gender in Fifteenth-Century Korea," 26-57
- *Take Quiz*

Fri., 2/3 – Women's Lives in a Patriarchal Society (2)

- *Read* Jungwon Kim, "You Must Avenge On My Behalf," 128-146
- *Post Response 2* by 7 am

Mon., 2/6 – Medicine in Joseon Korea

- *Read* CAI Jingfeng and ZHEN Yan, "Medicine in Ancient China," 49, 53-59
- *Read* Soyoung SUH, "A Chosŏn Korea Medical Synthesis," 137-139
- *Take Quiz*

Wed., 2/8 – *Sasang* Medicine

- *Read* Donald Baker, "Oriental Medicine in Korea," 147-148
- *Read* Joseph E. KIM, *Compass of Health* (Franklin Lakes, NJ: Career Press, 2001), 26-141 (only relevant parts)
- *Do Assignment*

Fri./ 2/10 – No Class: **Upload Essay 1 to Canvas by 12 midnight**

Mon., 2/13 – Dynastic Crisis

- *Read* Hwang, chapters 13-14

Wed., 2/15 – The Great Han Empire

- *Read* Hwang, chapter 15
- *Reread* Hwang, 58-59 (esp. part on Hunmin jeongeum)
- *Read* Ch'oe Malli, "Opposition to the Korean Alphabet," 296
- *Read* Chu Sigyŏng, "Essay on Korean Language and Letters," 313-314

- Do Assignment

Fri., 2/17 – Tides of Change

- Read Hwang, chapter 16 (for historical context)
- Watch: *YMCA Baseball Team* (YMCA yagudan, dir. KIM Hyeon-seok, 2002)
- Post Response 3 by 7 am

II. THE COLONIAL ERA (1910-1945)

Mon., 2/20 – The March First Independence Movement & “Cultural Rule”

- Read Hwang, chapter 17
- Read Peter Duus, *Abacus and the Sword*, 413-415, 421-423
- Take Quiz

Wed., 2/22 – The Thirties and Culture

- Read Hwang, chapter 18
- Read CH’AE Mansik, “My Innocent Uncle,” 95-111
- Do Assignment

Fri., 2/24 – Guest Lecture: Dr. Robert Fouser:

- Title: “The 386 Generation and the Quest for the ‘Good Country’”
- **Note:** *Talk will be given during Discussion Section 2 (11:00-11:50). Section 1 students are entirely welcome (and encouraged) to attend Section 2. A recording of the lecture will be made available for Section 1 students unable to attend. This talk has direct relevance to the take-home final, so be sure to attend or view.*

Mon., 2/27 – Life Under Colonial Rule

- Read Hildi Kang, *Under the Black Umbrella*, 24-36, 49-60
- Do Assignment

Wed., 3/1 – The Asia-Pacific War (1): Mobilizing Koreans for the Empire

- Read Hwang, chapter 19
- Read Hildi Kang, *Under the Black Umbrella*, 111-116
- Read Takashi FUJITANI, *Race for Empire*, 56-60, 293-298
- Do Assignment

Fri., 3/3 – The Asia-Pacific War (2): After the War, After Colonial Rule

- View Asia-Pacific War propaganda images
- Read Takashi FUJITANI, *Race for Empire*, 375-377
- Read KANG Sangjung & Robin Fletcher, “Memories of a Zainichi Korean

- Childhood,” 267-281
- Watch “Arirang Prime-Koreatown of Osaka established on Japanese Imperialism”:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKAyvDCTIYo>
- Post Response 4 by 7 am

Mon., 3/6 – Essay 1 Prep

- John Dower, *War Without Mercy*, 181-200, 242-245
- Do Assignment

Wed., 3/8 – No Class: Work on Essay 2

Fri., 3/10 – No Class: **Upload Essay 2 to Canvas by 12 midnight**

III. THE CONTEMPORARY ERA

Mon., 3/27 – Politics After Liberation

- Read Hwang, chapter 20
- Read Anna Louise Strong, “In North Korea: First Eye-Witness Report,” 1-6
- Read Yongjeung KIM, “A Korean ‘White Paper,’” March 31, 1950, excerpts
- Do Assignment

Wed., 3/29 – The Korean War

- Read Hwang, chapter 21
- Read PAK Kyung Sook, “The Mountain People,” ca. 1951
- Take Quiz

Fri., 3/31 – Long-term Effects of the War

- Read KIM Min-suk, “Scarlet Fingernails”
- Watch clips of *Grandmother’s Flower* (Halmae kkot, dir. MOON Jeong-hyun, 2007)
- Post Response 5 by 7 am

Mon., 4/3 – North Korea: After the War

- Read Hwang, chapter 22
- Read LI Chan Sun, “Weavers Rushing Ahead at ‘Kangson Speed,’ a New Chollima Speed,” (1970), 29-32.

Wed., 4/5 – North Korea: Juche Ideology

- Read Hwang, chapter 25
- Take Quiz

Fri., 4/7 – Juche in Action

- *Watch: The Game of Their Lives* (Ch'öllima ch'ukkudan, dir. Daniel Gordon, 2004)
- *Post Response 6* by 7 am

Mon., 4/10 – South Korea: After the War

- *Read* Hwang, chapter 23
- *Read* Cho Se-hŭi, “Knifblade,” 13-32
- *Do Assignment*

Wed., 4/12 – South Korea: The Yushin Era

- *Read* Hwang, chapter 24
- *Read* George Ogle, “The Yushin System in Action,” 93-105
- *Take Quiz*

Fri., 4/14 – Perspectives on Protest

- *Watch: A Single Spark* (Arŭmdaun ch'öngnyön Chŏn T'aeil, dir. PARK Kwang-su, 1995)
- *Post Response 7* by 7 am

Mon., 4/17 – South Korea: Democratization

- *Read* Hwang, chapter 26
- *Take Quiz*

Wed., 4/19 – South Korea: 21st Century (1): Historical Transition

- *Read* Hwang, chapter 27
- *Take Quiz*

Fri., 4/21 – South Korea: 21st Century (2): A Competitive Society

- *Read* CHOE, Sang-hun, “As Families Change, Korea’s Elderly Are Turning to Suicide,” *New York Times* (February 16, 2013)
- *Read* Vladimir Tikhonov, “‘Hell Joseon’ – a country where sleepless toil brings no mobility,” *Hankyoreh* (October 6, 2015)
- *Watch* *Miss Granny* (Susanghan kü nyŏ, dir. Hwang, Dong-hyuk, 2014)
- *Post Response 8* by 7 am

Mon., 4/24 – North Korea: 21st Century (1)

- Read John Delury, “The ‘China Factor,’” October 31, 2016, <http://38north.org/2016/10/jdelury103116/>
- Read Andrei Lankov, “Will there be a Korean war under Trump’s presidency?” *Al Jazeera*, November 27, 2016: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2016/11/korean-war-trump-presidency-161126124759694.html>
- Read Andrew Lankov. *The Real North Korea*, 239-258.
- Do Assignment

Wed., 4/26 – North Korea: 21st Century (2)

- View Painting
- Read Andrei Lankov, “News media keeps missing the point on North Korea,” *NK News*, April 7, 2015: <http://www.nknews.org/2015/04/news-media-keeps-missing-the-point-on-north-korea/>
- Do Assignment

Fri., 4/28 – Daily Lives in 21st-century North Korea

- Read “NK People Speak,” excerpts
- Read *New York Times* interactive webpage: http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/06/10/world/asia/north-korea-photos-video.html?emc=eta1&_r=0
- View “Everyday DPRK” website: <https://instagram.com/everydaydprk/>
- Post Response 9 by 7 am

Fri., 5/5 – Take-home final: **Upload to Canvas by 12 midnight.**