

Topics in Korean History:
Social History of Early Modern Korea
EALC 183/583
--Fall 2018--

This course introduces students to English-language scholarship on social history of Korea from the founding of the Chosŏn dynasty (1392–1910) to the mid-nineteenth century. Conducted as a reading seminar, the course will examine status and gender in early modern Korean society by considering, among others, descent, kinship, marriage, education, and economy. A reading list of noteworthy studies is intended to help the students map some critical questions and debates that have shaped the historiography. Everyone must participate actively in discussions, provide oral presentations as a discussion leader, and submit two review essays. No knowledge of Korean language or culture is presumed. This course satisfies Cross Cultural Analysis requirement.

Instructor: Eugene Y. Park
Williams Hall 642
University of Pennsylvania

Office hours: Mondays 2–3:30 pm, Tuesdays 10–11:30 am, and by appointment

Class meetings: Tuesdays 1:30–4:20 pm
Williams Hall 320

Requirements: Attendance (10%)
Active discussion participation (30%)
Oral presentations, each 20 minutes long (20%)
2 review essays, each 5–7 pages long (40%)
(Graduate students consult with instructor for requirements)

Readings: All academic journal articles will be provided by the instructor. Every book used in its entirety are available for purchase at Penn Bookstore. Some are also available as e-books through Van Pelt Library website.

Absences, missed exams, and late submissions will be penalized, unless based on medical, religious, or family emergency-related reasons with documentation.

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated. Cheating, forgery, dishonest conduct, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the university's educational, research, and social roles. In line with university regulations, course instructor reserves the right to discipline any student found guilty of inappropriate conduct.

All students are treated equally, and all marks are final, barring any calculation error. Absolutely no re-grading or re-reading, even when requested on the ground that the student wants to know what (s)he could have done better or needs a certain grade to graduate.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (8/29): Introduction

Week 2 (9/5): Overview

- Ch'oe, Yongho. "An Outline History of Korean Historiography." *Korean Studies* 4 (1980): 1–27.
- Miller, Owen. "The Idea of Stagnation in Korean Historiography: From Fukuda Tokuzō to the New Right." *Korean Histories* 2, no. 1 (2010): 3–12.
- Palais, James B. "A Search for Korean Uniqueness." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 55, no. 2 (December 1995): 409–425.
- Park, Eugene Y. "War and Peace in Premodern Korea: Institutional and Ideological Dimensions." *The Sigur Center Asia Papers* 27, *The Military and South Korean Society* (2006): 1–13.

Week 3 (9/12): Origins of Chosŏn Sociopolitical Institutions

- Duncan, John B. *The Origins of the Chosŏn Dynasty*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2000.

Week 4 (9/19): Confucianization of Korea

- Deuchler, Martina. *The Confucian Transformation of Korea: A Study of Society and Ideology*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Council on East Asian Studies, Harvard University, 1992.
- Walraven, Boudewijn. "Buddhist Accommodation and Appropriation and the Limits of Confucianization." *Journal of Korean Religions* 3, no. 1, *Late Chosŏn Buddhism* (April 2012): 105–116.

Week 5 (9/26): Civil Examination (*Munkwa*) and Status

- Palais, James B. "Confucianism and the Aristocratic/Bureaucratic Balance in Korea." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 44, no. 2 (December 1984): 427–468.
- Wagner, Edward W. "The Ladder of Success in Yi Dynasty Korea." *Occasional Papers on Korea* 1 (1974): 1–8.
- Ch'oe, Yong-ho. "Commoners in Early Yi Dynasty Civil Examinations: An Aspect of Korean Social Structure, 1392–1600." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 33, no. 4 (August 1974): 611–631.
- Wagner, Edward W. "The Civil Examination Process as Social Leaven: The Case of the Northern Provinces in the Yi Dynasty." *Korea Journal* 17, no. 1 (January 1977): 22–27.

Week 6 (10/3): Military Examination (*Mukwa*) and Status

- Park, Eugene Y. *Between Dreams and Reality: The Military Examination in Late Chosŏn Korea, 1600–1894*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Asia Center, 2007.

Week 7 (10/10): Descent Groups and Genealogies (*Chokpo*)

- Wagner, Edward W. "The Korean Chokpo as a Historical Source." In *Studies in Asian Genealogy*, edited by Spencer J. Palmer, 141–152. Provo, Utah: Brigham Young University Press, 1972.
- Song Chan-shik. "Genealogical Records." *Korea Journal* 17, no. 5 (May 1977): 15–24.
- Park, Eugene Y. "Imagined Connections in Early Modern Korea, 1500–1894: Representations of Northern Elite Miryang Pak Lineages in Genealogies." *Seoul Journal of Korean Studies* 21, no. 1 (June 2008): 1–27.
- Robinson, Kenneth R. "The Chinese Ancestors in a Korean Descent Group's Genealogies." *The Journal of Korean Studies* 13, no. 1 (Fall 2008): 89–114.

Week 8 (10/17): The Local Elite

- Kawashima, Fujiya. "Lineage Elite and Bureaucracy in Early Yi to Mid-Yi Dynasty Korea." *Occasional Papers on Korea* 5 (1977): 8–19.
- Kawashima, Fujiya. "A Study of the *Hyangan*: Kin Groups and Aristocratic Localism in the Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Korean Countryside." *The Journal of Korean Studies* 5 (1984): 3–38.
- Haboush, Jahyun Kim. "Dead Bodies in the Postwar Discourse of Identity in Seventeenth-Century Korea: Subversion and Literary Production in the Private Sector." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 62, no. 2 (May 2003): 415–442.
- Kim, Sun Joo. "Culture of Remembrance in Late Chosŏn Korea: Bringing an Unknown War Hero Back into History." *Journal of Social History* 44, no. 2 (Winter 2010): 563–585.

*Review essay 1 due at 5 pm on Friday, October 20, 2017

Week 9 (10/24): Late Chosŏn Social Stratification and Mobility

- Miyajima Hiroshi. "A New Horizon in the Study of the Household Register during the Joseon Period." *Sungkyun Journal of East Asian Studies* 3, no. 1 (February 2003): 259–270.
- Wagner, Edward W. "Social Stratification in Seventeenth-Century Korea: Some Observations from a 1663 Seoul Census Register." *Occasional Papers on Korea* 1 (1974): 36–54.
- Shin, Susan S. "Economic Development and Social Mobility in Pre-Modern Korea: 1600–1860." *Peasant Studies* 7, no. 3 (Summer 1978): 187–197.
- Park, Eugene Y. "Status and 'Defunct' Offices in Early Modern Korea: The Case of Five Guards Generals (Owijang), 1864–1910." *Journal of Social History* 41, no. 3 (2008): 737–757.

Week 10 (10/31): The Late Chosŏn *Chungin* and Commoners

- Park, Eugene Y. *A Family of No Prominence: The Descendants of Pak Tŏkhwa and the Birth of Modern Korea*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2014. Epilogue, chapters 1–5, pp. 1–106.

Week 11 (11/7): The State and the Local in the Nineteenth Century

- An Pyong-uk. "The Growth of Popular Consciousness and Popular Movement in the 19th Century: Focus on the *Hyanghoe* and *Millan*." *Korea Journal* 28, no. 4 (April 1988): 4–19.
- Kim, Sun Joo. "Negotiating Cultural Identities in Conflict: A Reading of the Writings of

- Paek Kyŏnghae (1765–1842).” *The Journal of Korean Studies* 10, no. 1 (Fall 2005): 85–120.
- Kim, Sun Joo. “Taxes, Local Elite, and Rural Populace in the Chinju Uprising of 1862.” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 66, no. 4 (November 2007): 993–1027.
- Walraven, Boudewijn. “Religion and the City: Seoul in the Nineteenth Century.” *The Review of Korean Studies* 3 (2000): 178–206.

Week 12 (11/14): Gender in the Early and Mid-Chosŏn Periods

- Wagner, Edward W. “Two Early Genealogies and Women’s Status in Early Yi Dynasty Korea.” In *Korean Women: View from the Inner Room*, edited by Laurel Kendall and Mark Peterson, 23–32. New Haven: East Rock Press, 1983.
- Peterson, Mark. “Women without Sons: A Measure of Social Change in Yi Dynasty Korea.” In *Korean Women: View from the Inner Room*, edited by Laurel Kendall and Mark Peterson, 33–44. New Haven: East Rock Press, 1983.
- Duncan, John. “The *Naehun* and the Politics of Gender in Fifteenth-Century.” In *Creative Women of Korea: The Fifteenth Through the Twentieth Centuries*, edited by Young-Key Kim-Renaud, 26–57. Armonk, New York: M. E. Sharpe, 2004.
- Haboush, JaHyun Kim. “Gender and the Politics of Language in Chosŏn Korea.” In *Rethinking Confucianism: Past and Present in China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam*, edited by Benjamin A. Elman, John B. Duncan, and Herman Ooms, 220–257. Los Angeles: UCLA Asian Pacific Monograph Series, 2002.

Week 13 (11/21): Gender in the Mid- and Late Chosŏn Periods

- Pettid, Michael J., and Youngmin Kim, eds. *Women and Confucianism in Chosŏn Korea: New Perspectives*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2011.
- Kim, Jisoo M. “Women’s Legal Voice: Language, Power, and Gender Performativity in Late Chosŏn Korea.” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 74, no. 3 (August 2015): 667–686.
- Baker, Don. “Seoul and Salem: Contrasts in How States Treated Female Performers of Licentious Rituals.” *Journal of Korean Religions* 5, no. 2, *Religion, Ritual, and the State in Chosŏn Korea* (October 2014): 11–38.

Week 14 (11/28): Assessment I

- Palais, James B. *Politics and Policy in Traditional Korea*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1975.

Week 15 (12/5): Assessment II

- Yi Tae-Jin. *The Dynamics of Confucianism and Modernization in Korean History*. Ithaca: East Asia Program, Cornell University, 2007.

*Review essay 2 due at 5 pm on Friday, December 8, 2017