

*History 105g. The Korean Past. Fall 2017.*

Tuesday & Thursday 12:30-1:50pm, THH 114



**Instructor**

Prof. Kyung Moon Hwang

**Office Hours**

Tu. 3-4, Th. 11-12, and by appointment

**INTRODUCTION** (please read carefully)

As a General Education offering, this course will focus on the fundamentals of reading and writing, as well as speaking, while exploring the rich history of Korea. It also seeks to build the skills of historical analysis over memorization, including through the interpretation of primary sources, the historical texts from the past.

Hence this course will demand active engagement with narratives, both primary and secondary sources, the development of critical thinking skills, and the ability to interpret the past in accordance with our course themes: **1. Korean Identity and Character; 2. Relationship to the Outside World; 3. Forms of Political Rule; 4. Social Order and Hierarchy; 5. Women and Family; 6. Religion; and 7. Economy and Daily Life.**

A final theme will be the country's **Modern Transformation**, especially its history in the 20th century,

when Korea, one of the oldest civilizations in the world, was hit by the full range of economic, political, social, and cultural changes that characterized the modern world. The modern period witnessed, for the first time in over a thousand years, direct subjugation by another power—the period of Japanese colonialism (1910-1945)—and the division of the country, beginning in 1945 and continuing to the present day.

The contrasting fates of North and South Korea over the past seven decades, as well as the events on the peninsula taking place today, are key to interpreting the historical significance of events and themes that go all the way back to the beginnings of Korean civilization itself. This will be the main challenge of our course: to analyze and interpret historical texts, events, and patterns through themes, then to express this understanding through both writing and speaking.

## ASSIGNMENTS

**Readings.** The readings will consist of the course textbook, *A History of Korea* (HK), and primary sources, or historical texts from the era in question. The course textbook, written by the professor, is a thematic narrative, meaning that each of the 27 chapters focuses on a particular theme or set of themes, as listed above. Each chapter corresponds to a specific class topic, as shown in the course schedule below. Before each class session, read carefully the assigned chapter in HK, which provides a specific narrative, interpretation, and argument regarding the particular period and larger themes in question. Next, read the corresponding primary source text to enhance your understanding of the topic, to compare with perspectives and content in the textbook, and to prepare for discussion.

**Class Discussion.** Everyone will be responsible for actively engaging in class discussion, which will take up a significant portion of class time. For each class session there will be several interpretive questions provided in advance (“Assignments”) based on the readings, including the assigned primary source reading(s). Student discussion grades will be determined by this performance, regardless of whether the student is present or not. That is, attendance at class sessions is required to get discussion credit. You will get a discussion grade every week that will be posted on Blackboard. You will be expected to articulate a clear position and reasoning behind your position, and to connect your answer to our course themes and readings. We will also analyze images and videos, examine other evidence, and incorporate current events into our discussions. You are also welcome to raise any related issue.

**Exams.** There will be both an in-class midterm exam and an “at home” final exam, both in essay format. The exams will require a thorough understanding of the major themes and developments covered in the first and second half, respectively, and an ability to express one’s understanding in a clear argument, supported by evidence from our readings and class discussion. A study guide will be made available in advance in order to assist your preparation. The questions for the final examination, taken remotely, will be revealed at 1pm on Thursday, May 5, through our course’s Blackboard site. You will have three hours--until 4pm, when it is due--to submit your examination answers through Blackboard.

**Weekly paper.** Every week by Friday at 2pm, you will need to submit a one-page short essay (about 300 words) that answers the question, **What was interesting this week, and why?** To do so, select an event, historical figure, theme, primary source, argument, interpretation, or something (a point, an image, etc.) from the discussion or lecture. You can also extend the implications of one of the weekly discussion questions. In any case, please make sure to answer the question and put forth a clear argument, supported by evidence from our readings and classroom experiences.

Occasionally you can instead respond to a special event that you attend, or to an item in the news, upon prior approval from the instructor.

## Evaluation and Grading

All written assignments, including exams, will be evaluated according to the following three criteria:

1. How well does it answer the question and/or present a clear argument?
2. Is that answer or argument well supported by evidence and reasoning?
3. Is the essay coherent, clearly structured, and well written?

Aside from the exams, the written assignments must be submitted in PDF and through Blackboard. Ten points will be deducted for every day (beginning with the first hour) that a paper is turned in late.

## Weighting\*

*Weekly papers:* 30%

*Discussion participation:* 15%

*Mid-term exam:* 25%

*Final exam:* 30%

Letter grades correspond to the traditional numbering format:

A: 93-100, A-: 90-92, B+: 87-89, B: 83-86, etc.

**THE PASSING GRADE FOR THIS COURSE WILL BE A C- (70).**

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## READINGS

Hwang, KM. *A History of Korea* (2nd ed., Palgrave-Macmillan, 2016) [**HK**] (first two chapters available [on Amazon](#))

Primary source readings, available in "Course Readings" in [**BB**]

*Readings must be done **before** class in order to participate in class discussion and understand the instructor's presentation.*

## Course Web Site (blackboard.usc.edu)

\*\*Readings ("Course Readings")

\*\*Site for submitting short papers and other work ("Assignments")

\*\*Copies of the syllabus and other materials, such as a Korean history timeline, **romanization and pronunciation guide**, etc. ("Course Information")

\*\*Lecture slides ("Slides")

*\*You will also need to pass a map quiz in the second week of class (8/29, then 8/31). You will be given two chances to pass (a perfect score), and failure to pass the map quiz will lead to a half-grade deduction from your semester discussion grade. Maps are available in "Course Information".*

## **How to Get the Most Out of This Course**

The best way to succeed in this course is to do all the readings carefully in advance, and to attend all of the class sessions. This is also the surest and easiest way to pass the course. You should also conduct regular reviews of the course materials: At least once a week, review your notes, the reading assignments, the presentations, and exam study guides. Next, come to class ready to ask questions and participate in discussion. And take advantage of the available human resources—in addition to the professor, tutoring and counseling services, as well as the writing center—to ensure that you are keeping up satisfactorily. Finally, step back occasionally to think of all the information in light of the course's themes and larger historical patterns. This will improve not only your performance but the value of what you gain from this course.

## **A Note on Integrity, Academic and Otherwise**

Please make sure to observe common courtesies in class and refrain from disruptive or distracting behavior, including chatting and snoring. Please note: You will NOT be allowed to open laptop computers or use your phone or tablet during class. No electronic devices must be used in class.

As for written assignments, any work not done solely by you constitutes cheating, and any unattributed use of others' writing is plagiarism. Please refer to our guidelines for academic integrity: [www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/forms/tio.pdf](http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/forms/tio.pdf). Anyone who violates these rules will automatically fail this course and could face severe punishment, including expulsion, from the university.

Finally, while you may bring a drink, please refrain from eating in class, as this can be distracting.

## Disability Services

*If you are requesting academic accommodations based on a disability, please register with [Disability Services and Programs](#) (DSP) in order to obtain a letter of verification for approved accommodations. Please provide me with that letter as soon as possible. DSP (740-0776) is located in GFS 120 and is open 8:30 to 5:00 on the weekdays.*

## Course Schedule

Week	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
1	Aug 22. <b>Introduction to the Course</b>	Aug 24. <b>Goguryeo and Korean Origins</b> HK Ch. 1; “King Gwanggaeto Stele Inscription”
2	Aug 29. <b>Silla and Peninsular Unification</b> HK Ch. 2; “Queen Seondeok Biography”; “Kim Yusin [Gim Yusin] Legend,” from <i>History of the Three Kingdoms</i>	Aug 31. <b>Unified Silla</b> HK Ch. 3; “Biography of Jang Bogo [Chang Pogo],” from <i>History of the Three Kingdoms</i>
3	Sept 5. <b>Founding of the Goryeo Dynasty</b> HK Ch. 4; “Founding of Goryeo [Koryô]” (including the “Ten Injunctions”)	Sept 7. <b>Religion and Regionalism in the Goryeo Era</b> HK Ch. 5; “Myoch’ông [Myocheong] and Kim Pusik [Gim Busik]”
4	Sept 12. <b>Goryeo under Mongol Domination</b> HK Ch. 6; “Resistance to the Mongol Invasion”, “Opposition to Yuan Policies”	Sept 14. <b>The Goryeo-Joseon Transition</b> HK Ch. 7; “Preface to the New Alphabet”, “Chông Tojôn [Jeong Dojeon]: Discourse on Buddhism and Confucianism”
5	Sept 19. <b>Confucianism and Family in the Early Joseon</b> HK Ch. 8; “Excerpts from the Confucian Classics”	Sept 21. <b>The Great Invasions</b> HK Ch. 9; “The Book of Corrections,” excerpts
6	Sept 26. <b>Politics and Gender in the Mid-Joseon Dynasty</b> HK Ch. 10; “The Intractability of Factional Disputes”	Sept 28. <b>Late 18th Century Intellectual Opening</b> HK Ch. 11; “Pak Chega [Bak Jega]: Memorial of 1786”
7	Oct 3. <b>Society and Popular Culture in the Late Joseon</b> HK Ch. 12; “The Tale of Chunhyang”	Oct 5. <b>19th Century Disturbances</b> (and midterm review) HK Ch. 13; “Conflicts with the West” <b>Review for Midterm</b>
8	Oct. 10. <b>MIDTERM EXAMINATION in class</b>	

Week	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
8		Oct 12. <b>The Year 1894</b> HK Ch. 14; “Kabo [Gabo] Reform Edicts”
9	Oct 17. <b>The Great Korean Empire</b> HK Ch. 15; Editorials from <i>The Independent</i> newspaper (1896)	Oct 19. <b>The Japanese Takeover, 1904-1919</b> HK Ch. 16; “Chang Chiyôn [Jang Jiyeon]: We Wail Today” (1905)
10	Oct 24. <b>Gender and Social Change in the 1920s</b> HK Ch. 17; Na Hyeseok, "A Confession about My Divorce"	Oct 26. <b>Nationhood and Daily Life in Late Colonial Korea</b> HK Ch. 18; Government-General of Korea, “Thriving Chosen” (1935); Bak Taewon, “A Day in the Life of the Novelist Kubo,” (1934) excerpts
11	Oct 31. <b>Wartime Mobilization, Collaboration, and Resistance</b> HK Ch. 19; Kim Song-su, “Dying for a Righteous Cause” (1943); “True Stories of the Korean Comfort Women”	Nov 2. <b>Liberation, Occupation, and Division</b> HK Ch. 20; U.S. Army, “G-2 Periodic Reports” (1945) In-class film: “Welcome to Dongmakgol”
12	Nov 7. <b>The Korean War</b> HK Ch. 21; “Welcome to Dongmakgol”, cont’d	Nov 9. <b>Early North Korea</b> HK Ch. 22; Kim Il Sung, “Juche Speech of 1955”
13	Nov 14. <b>Monumental Life in North Korea</b> HK Ch. 25; Kang Un Bin, “Declaration of the Origination of the Juche Idea” (1986)	Nov 16. <b>Restless Youth in 1960s South Korea</b> HK Ch. 23; “Declaration of University Students” (1960) and Park, “Our Nation’s Path” (1962), excerpts
14	Nov 21. <b>South Korean Culture and Politics in the 1970s</b> HK Ch. 24; Kim Chiha [Gim Jiha], “Five Bandits” (1970)	Nov 23. THANKSGIVING
15	Nov 28. <b>Democratization in South Korea</b> HK Ch. 26; “Forward” and “A Photographer’s Credo”, from <i>The Kwangju Uprising: Eyewitness Press Accounts</i>	Nov 30. <b>South Korea in the New Millennium</b> HK Ch. 27 <b>Review for Final Exam</b>

\*\*\*\*\*FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS MADE AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD: Tuesday, December 12, 11am\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*FINAL EXAM DUE THROUGH BLACKBOARD: Tuesday, December 12, 1pm\*\*\*\*\*