

UW-Madison  
History Department

**Hist 225: Introduction to East Asian History - Korea**

Instructor: Dr. Charles Kim  
Office: Humanities 4122  
Office Hours: W 2:00-3:30

email: ckim45@wisc.edu  
mailbox #4007 (4<sup>th</sup> fl. Humanities)  
phone: 263-1831

Lectures:

MWF 11:00-11:50

Location: Humanities 1111

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Eunhee Park  
Office: Humanities 4272  
Office Hours: W 12:00-2:00  
Phone: 263-1939

Discussion Sections:

301 – R 2:25-3:15 Social Sciences 6105

302 – R 3:30-4:20 Humanities 2211

304 – F 12:05-12:55 Van Vleck B309

303 – F 1:20-2:10 Humanities 2637

Korea has a long and rich history that often goes underappreciated in the US and other parts of the world. At the same time, studying Korea provides a unique vantage point for understanding major processes in East Asia and the world, both in the past and the present. The overarching aim of this course is to use illuminating aspects of the Korean historical experience to set the path for an educational journey that encompasses not only learning about the Korean past, but also expanding our ability to approach cultural histories, as well as national cultures in general.

In the first part of the semester, we will examine major political, social, and cultural developments in Korea from antiquity to the twentieth century. In the second part, we will delve into intriguing questions about modern Korea that are rooted in historical developments and processes at the local, regional, and global levels. The aims of this course are as follows:

- (1) Gain a solid understanding of Korean cultural history with a focus on the modern era.
- (2) Learn about how Korea fits within broader patterns of East Asian and global history.

- (3) Learn how to approach the cultural history (of any country) critically and from a variety of angles.
- (4) Expand your ability to engage in cross-cultural understanding.
- (5) Improve your ability to identify and discuss the main arguments of an academic reading.

**Required Text:**

Course Reader, available at the Humanities Copy Center (1650 Humanities Building)

**Optional Texts:**

We will be working without a textbook this semester. Some of you might like to consult a textbook from time to time for supplementary information about Korean history and culture. I have placed several Korean history textbooks on reserve at College Library to meet this need.

- (1) Keith PRATT, *Everlasting Flower: A History of Korea* (London: Reaktion Books, 2006). DS907 P73 2006

*This is a good overall history of Korea from antiquity to present.*

- (2) Michael E. ROBINSON, *Korea's twentieth-century odyssey* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007). DS916 R63 2007

*This is a good book for twentieth-century Korean history.*

- (3) Charles K. ARMSTRONG, *The Koreas* (London: Routledge, 2007). DS902 A75 2007

*This is a concise overview of the post-1945 histories of North and South Korea.*

**Evaluation:**

- (1) Attendance & Participation: Regular attendance and consistent participation in our MWF lectures are expected of all students. This includes your active involvement in small-group activities. Frequent absences (more than 3 over the course of the semester) may

adversely affect your grade. Class participation in our MWF lectures will make up 15% of your final grade.

(2) Discussion Section: 10%

(3) Synopses: You will write a minimum of 10 one-page synopses (approximately 250 words) to selected secondary source readings that appear in this syllabus. The selected readings for which you can write synopses are marked with an asterisk (\*). Synopses for these readings (of which there are approximately 20) are the only ones that you can receive credit for.

Synopses are due at the start of class on the day that the reading has been assigned. *Synopses must be on time to receive credit, so be sure to arrive to class on time.* Evaluation of synopses will be done by your peers, not by the instructor or TA. Evaluated synopses are due at the start of the next class meeting. *You must bring your peer's synopsis (which you will have evaluated) to the next class meeting in order to receive credit for your own synopsis.* The only exception I will consider for the late return of a peer's synopsis (and awarding of credit for your own synopsis) is illness or other good reason for absence. On February 28 and April 27, you will submit a folder containing all of your evaluated synopses. Synopses will make up 15% of your final grade.

(4) Midterms: There will be two midterms this semester. The first will be on February 18, the second on March 23. The second midterm will be cumulative. The midterms will make up 20% of your final grade.

(5) Paper: You will write a 6-8 page paper (12-font, double-spaced) in the second half of the semester. Your paper will be about one of the four topics that make up the second part of this class (March 28-May 2). Your first draft is due no later than the April 29 class, but you should really try to submit your first paper sooner than this. After you receive the first evaluation to your paper, you can revise and re-submit multiple times. The final deadline for your final draft is May 8. The paper will make up 20% of your final grade.

(6) Final: For the final, you will create a group project in which you will tackle your own topic about Korean history and present your findings either in a poster or a webpage. All groups will display their final projects on May 8 (time). This assignment will amount to 20% of your final grade.

(7) Recap of Grading:

Attendance & Participation = 15%  
Discussion Section = 10%  
Synopsises = 15%  
Midterm = 10% + 10% = 20%  
Paper = 20%  
Final = 20%

**Other Expectations:**

- (1) The TA and I will evaluate your work in a number of areas – in-class discussion, exams, and written work. Our primary expectation is that you take active part in the process of learning, both at the individual and group levels. To accomplish this, we need you to consistently invest time in the class – to do the readings and assignments in preparation for class meetings, as well as to reflect and form your own views on the readings and other course materials.
- (2) Use laptops and other electronic devices in class **only for class-related purposes that contribute to the individual and collective learning process.**
- (3) Observe the submission times and dates for assignments. This is out of fairness to your classmates, and also out of consideration to the graders
- (4) Be sure not to engage in any form of plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty. For guidelines about what constitutes a violation of academic integrity, see the webpage prepared by the Division of Student Life:  
  
<http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html>
- (5) Be accountable. Carefully read this syllabus, course emails, and assignment guidelines, and pay attention to announcements in class and in sections. When in doubt, ask me, the TA, or a classmate.

**Note on Romanization:**

Nowadays, Korean is written primarily in *Hangeul*, a phonetic script invented in the fifteenth century. *Hangeul* is well suited for the Korean language; the Roman alphabet is not. There are two widely used Romanization system for modern

Korean: the **McCune Reischauer System** (MCR) and the **Revised Romanization System** (RR). The South Korean government adopted the latter system in 2000, and its use has expanded a lot since then, especially in South Korean publications. The MCR System was created in the 1930s and remains the Romanization system of choice among scholars, librarians, and publishers. As a result, most scholarly articles and books use the MCR System. In this class, we will use the MCR system. There are pros and cons for each system. I have chosen to use the MCR system primarily because most of our readings use it. Always feel free to ask if there's a Romanized word that you're not sure about.

### Part 1: Preliminaries

W 1/19 – Course Introduction

F 1/21 – What Is Korea?

Read this syllabus carefully, esp. pp. 1-4.

Keith PRATT, *Everlasting Flower: A History of Korea* (London: Reaktion Books, 2006), 13-20.

Michael J. SETH, *A Concise History of Korea* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2006), 7-16.

Laura C. NELSON, "Is 'Korean' an Ephemeral Quality? Anthropological Perspectives on Korean Social and Cultural Dynamism" (2006).

Peter H. LEE and Wm. Theodore DE BARY, comp., *Sources of Korean Tradition: Volume One* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), 4-10.

M 1/24 – What is Sinitic Civilization?

Patricia EBREY et al., *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006), 3-9.

Charles HOLCOMBE, *The Genesis of East Asia: 221 BC-907 AD*, (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2001), 53-77.

W 1/26 – Buddhism: History and Concepts

Patricia EBREY et al., *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006), 65-70.

Richard H. SEAGER, *Buddhism in America* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), 12-20.

Kusan Sunim, *The Way of Korean Zen* (Boston: Weatherhill, 1985), 127-152.

#### F 1/28 – “Korean” Buddhism

Robert E. BUSWELL, Jr., “Imagining ‘ Korean’ Buddhism,” in *Nationalism and the Construction of Korean Identity* (Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies, 1998), 73-87.

\*Robert E. BUSWELL, Jr., “Korean Buddhist Journeys to Lands Worldly and Otherworldly,” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 68:4 (November 2009), 1055-1075.

\*You can write a synopsis for this reading and submit it at the start of class on Friday.

#### F 1/28 – Film Screening

*Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... and Spring* (dir. KIM Ki-duk, 2003, 104 min.)

Time and location to be announced.

#### M 1/31 – Buddhism Today

Guest Lecture by Dr. Kyong-Mi Kwon, East Asian Languages and Literature Department, UW-Madison

Reading will be available on Learn@UW.

#### W 2/2 – Confucianism in Chosôn Korea

Patricia EBREY et al., *East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006), 32-33.

Wm. Theodore DEBARY, “Introduction,” in *The Rise of Neo-Confucianism in Korea* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1985), 1-4.

Michael J. SETH, *A Concise History of Korea* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2006), 121-125.

Nancy ABELMANN, "Traditional Culture and Society," in *An Introduction to Korean Culture* (Seoul: Hollym, 1997), 261-275.

Peter H. LEE and Wm. Theodore DE BARY, comp., *Sources of Korean Tradition: Volume One* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), 49-54.

#### F 2/4 – Confucianism and National Culture

Bill ASHCROFT et al., *Post-Colonial Studies: The Key Concepts* (New York: Routledge, 2000), 70-73.

Isabella Bird BISHOP, *Korea and Her Neighbors: A Narrative of Travel with an Account of the Recent Vicissitudes and Present Position of the Country* (Seoul: Yonsei University Press, 1970, first published in 1898), 21-22, 445-451.

Todd HENRY, "Sanitizing Empire: Japanese Articulations of Korean Otherness and the Construction of Early Colonial Seoul, 1905-1919," *The Journal of Asian Studies* 64:3 (August 2005), 647-649.

Vincent BRANDT, *A Korean Village Between Farm and Sea* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1971), 230-240.

\*Nancy ABELMANN, "Traditional Culture and Society," in *An Introduction to Korean Culture* (Seoul: Hollym, 1997), 276-285.

\*You can write a synopsis for the **entire** Abelman reading (pp. 261-285) and submit it at the start of class on Friday.

#### F 2/4 – Film Screening

*The Houseguest and My Mother* (dir. SHIN Sang-ok, 1961, 102 min.)

Time and location to be announced.

#### M 2/7 – Confucianism Today

Guest Lecture by Dr. Su Yun Lee

Reading will be available on Learn@UW.

#### W 2/9 – Confucianism and Postcolonialism

\*Eunhee Kim YI, "Mothers and Sons in Modern Korea," *Korea Journal* 41:4 (Winter 2001), 5-27.

Uma NARAYAN, *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third-World Feminisms* (London: Routledge, 1997), 6-13. 83-85, 100-113.

OPTIONAL: CHU Yo-sôp, "Mama and the Boarder," in *A Ready-Made Life: Early Masters of Modern Korean Fiction* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1998), 89-106.

#### F 2/11 – Nationalism

Craig CALHOUN, *Nationalism* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997), 9-23.

Peter BURKE, *What is Cultural History?* (Cambridge: Polity, 2008), 77-78, 85-87.

Benedict ANDERSON, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*, excerpts. Available at:

<http://www.nationalismproject.org/what/anderson.htm>

John DUNCAN, "Proto-nationalism in Premodern Korea," in *Perspectives on Korea* (Sydney: Wild Peony, 1998), 198-208.

#### M 2/14 – Nationalism in Korea

Guest Lecture by Dr. Dafna Zur, University of British Columbia

#### W 2/16 –Midterm Review

#### F 2/18 – Midterm #1

#### M 2/21 – Imperialism in East Asia

E.J. Hobsbawm, *The Age of Empire, 1875-1914* (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1987), 56-59.

Michael E. ROBINSON, *Korea's Twentieth-Century Odyssey: A Short History* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007), 36-42.

\*Craig CALHOUN, *Nationalism* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997), 104-118.

Peter DUUS, *The Abacus and the Sword: The Japanese Penetration of Korea, 1895-1910* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995), 413-423.



W 2/23 – Cultural Nationalism

Michael E. ROBINSON, *Korea's Twentieth-Century Odyssey: A Short History* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007), 43-52, 56-65.

CH'AE Mansik, "My Innocent Uncle," in *My Innocent Uncle* (Seoul: Jimoondang Publishing Company, 2002).

F 2/25 – Socialist Movements

Michael E. ROBINSON, *Korea's Twentieth-Century Odyssey: A Short History* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007), 69-75.

Karl MARX & Friedrich ENGELS, "The Manifesto of the Communist Party," chapters I, II, IV. Available at:

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/>

Peter H. LEE and Wm. Theodore DE BARY, comp., *Sources of Korean Tradition: Volume One* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), 354-357.

M 2/28 – The Asia-Pacific War: The Experiences of Ordinary People (1)

SYNOPSIS FOLDER DUE IN CLASS FOR REVIEW

Michael E. ROBINSON, *Korea's Twentieth-Century Odyssey: A Short History* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2007), 92-99.

AND

Hildi KANG, *Under the Black Umbrella: Voices from Colonial Korea, 1910-1945* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 111-122).

AND

Peter BURKE, *What is Cultural History?* (Cambridge: Polity, 2008), 27-29.

AND

KASAYAMA Yoshikichi, "Korean Guard'," in *Japan At War: An Oral History* (New York: The New Press, 1992), 113-120.

AND/OR

AHN Juretsu, "Forced Labor," 192-198,

W 3/2 – The Asia-Pacific War: The Experiences of Ordinary People (2)

YAMASHITA, Samuel H., "The Pacific War and Ordinary Japanese," in *Leaves from an Autumn of Emergencies: Selections from Wartime Diaries of Ordinary Japanese* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2005), 3-11.

AND

ITABASHI Yasuo, "The Diary of a Navy Special-Attack Pilot," 51-80.

AND/OR

YOSHIZAWA Hisako, "Until the War Ended," 191-220.

F 3/4 – The Asia-Pacific War: The Politics of Memory

\*Tessa MORRIS-SUZUKI, "The Past is Not Dead," chapter 1 in *The Past Within Us: Media, Memory, History* (London: Verso, 2005), 1-32.

M 3/7 – National Division and the Korean War

Keith PRATT, *Everlasting Flower: A History of Korea* (London: Reaktion Books, 2006), 241-263.

KANG Sangjung, "Memories of a *Zainichi* Korean Childhood," *Japan Focus*. Available at:

<http://japanfocus.org/-Kang-Sangjung/2343>

W 3/9 – Economic Development and Its Discontents: South Korea

Charles K. ARMSTRONG, *The Koreas* (London: Routledge, 2007), 21-33.

Peter H. LEE and Wm. Theodore DE BARY, comp., *Sources of Korean Tradition: Volume Two* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), 400-411.

OPTIONAL:

Keith PRATT, *Everlasting Flower: A History of Korea* (London: Reaktion Books, 2006), 264-269.

F 3/11 – Economic Development and Its Discontents: North Korea

Charles K. ARMSTRONG, *The Koreas* (London: Routledge, 2007), 57-70.

\*Suk-Young KIM, "Springtime for Kim Il Sung in Pyongyang: City on Stage  
City as Stage," 51:2 (Summer 2007), 24-40.

OPTIONAL:

Keith PRATT, *Everlasting Flower: A History of Korea* (London: Reaktion  
Books, 2006), 269-273.

M 3/21 - Midterm Review

W 3/23 – Midterm #2

### Part 2: Understanding Contemporary Korea

F 3/25 – What is Cultural History?

\*Robert DARNTON, "*The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in  
French Cultural History* (New York: Basic Books, 1984), 3-7, 75-104.

**Question #1: Why do self-immolation, blood pledges (*hyô/sô*), and other  
patterned forms of protest remain part of South Korea's political culture?**

M 3/28 – The Cultural Dimension of Protest in South Korea

Mi PARK, "Organizing Dissent Against Authoritarianism," *Korea Journal*  
(Autumn 2005), 261-289.

Gabriele HADL, "Korean Protest Culture," *Kyoto Journal*. Available at:

<http://www.kyotojournal.org/kjselections/koreanprotest.html>

Sidney TARROW, *Power in Movement: Social Movements and  
Contentious Politics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998),  
30-32.

Peter BURKE, *What is Cultural History?* (Cambridge: Polity, 2008), 93-97.

W 3/30 – Self-Immolation

Hyojoung KIM, "Shame, Anger, and Love in Collective Action: Emotional Consequences of Suicide Protest in South Korea, 1991," *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* 7:2 (Summer 2002), 159-176.

AND/OR

Michael BIGGS, "The Transnational Diffusion of Protest by Self Immolation," 1-41. Available at:

[www.wzb.eu/zkd/zcm/pdf/presentation/biggs06\\_berlin.pdf](http://www.wzb.eu/zkd/zcm/pdf/presentation/biggs06_berlin.pdf)

F 4/1 – Contemporary Protest Issues

\*Alexis DUDDEN, *Troubled Apologies Among Japan, Korea, and the United States* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), 1-30.

M 4/4 – Paper Workshop

**Question #2: What forces have shaped Korean families over the past century?**

W 4/6 – New Understandings of Affectivity

\*Anthony GIDDENS, *Runaway World: How Globalization is Reshaping Our Lives* (London: Routledge, 2003), 51-66.

AND/OR

\*KWON Bodurae, "The Paradoxical Structure of Modern 'Love' in Korea: Yeonae and Its Possibilities," *Korea Journal* 45:3 (Autumn 2005), 185-208. Available at:

<http://www.ekoreajournal.net/>

F 4/8 – Reading Day

M 4/11 – Gender in Contemporary South Korea

\*Seungsook MOON, "The Production and Subversion of Hegemonic Masculinity: Reconfiguring Gender Hierarchy in Contemporary South Korea," in *Under Construction: The Gendering of Modernity, Class, and Consumption in the Republic of Korea* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2002), 79-113.

AND/OR

\*CHO Haejoang, "Living With Conflicting Subjectivities: Mother, Motherly Wife, and Sexy Woman in the Transition From Colonial-Modern to Postmodern Korea," in *Under Construction: The Gendering of Modernity, Class, and Consumption in the Republic of Korea* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2002), 165-195.

W 4/13 – Neoliberalism in South Korea

\*CHO Joo-hyun, "Neoliberal Governmentality at Work: Post-IMF Korean Society and the Construction of Neoliberal Women," *Korea Journal* 49:3 (Autumn 2009), 15-43.

AND/OR

\*PARK So Jin, "Educational Manager Mothers: South Korea's Neoliberal Transformation," *Korea Journal* 47:3 (Autumn 2007), 186-213.

Both articles are available at:

<http://www.ekoreajournal.net/>

F 4/15 - Workshop for Final Project

**Question #3: How can we conceptualize Korean cuisine?**

M 4/18 – Food and Postcolonial History

Yael RAVIV, "Falafel: A National Icon," *Gastronomica* 3:3 (Summer 2003), 20-25.

AND

Katarzyna J. CWIERTKA, "Beyond *kimpap* and *pudae tchigae*: Chewing on Korea's modern history," in *Korea in the middle* (Leiden: CNWS Publications, 2007), 241-258.

AND/OR

HAN Kyung-Koo, "Noodle Odyssey: East Asia and Beyond," *Korea Journal* 50:1 (Spring 2010), 60-84. Available at:

<http://www.ekoreajournal.net/>

W 4/20 – Consuming Coffee

Kenneth POMERANZ and Steven TOPIK, *The World That Trade Created: Society, Culture, and the World Economy, 1400 To the Present* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, Inc., 2006), 71-75, 80-87.

AND

\*BAK Sangmee, "From Strange Bitter Concoction to Romantic Necessity: The Social History of Coffee Drinking in South Korea," *Korea Journal* 45:2 (Summer 2005), 37-59. Available at:

<http://www.ekoreajournal.net/>

AND/OR

\*Francis Leo COLLINS, "Of kimchi and coffee: globalization, transnationalism, and familiarity in cultural consumption," *Social and cultural geography* 9:2 (March 2008), 151-169.

F 4/22 – Film Screening

*A State of Mind* (dir. Daniel GORDON, 2004, 94 min.)

Time and location to be announced.

M 4/25 – Globalization and Korean Foods

Uma NARAYAN, *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third-World Feminisms* (London: Routledge, 1997), 178-188.

Angie Y. CHUNG, *Legacies of Struggle: Conflict and Cooperation in Korean American Politics* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007), 53-56. Available as pdf at Learn@UW.

Dana BOWEN, "Korean Simplicity Morphs Into Lavishness," October 25, 2006, *New York Times*

Victoria KIM, "Korean Immigrant Reigns Over an Empire of Tofu Stew," January 24, 2008, *Los Angeles Times*

Jennifer STEINHAUER, "For a New Generation, Kimchee Goes With Tacos," February 24, 2009, *New York Times*

Dana GOODYEAR, "The Scavenger," November 9, 2009, *The New Yorker*

**Question #4: How do North Koreans see the world?**

W 4/27 – Understanding North Korea, Understanding America

Sonia RYANG, “Introduction: North Korea: Going Beyond Security and Enemy Rhetoric,” in *North Korea: Toward a Better Understanding* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2009), 1-16.

Donald E. PEASE, *The New American Exceptionalism* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009), 7-13, 23-27.

SYNOPSIS FOLDER DUE IN CLASS

F 4/29 – Love in North Korea

B.R. Myers, *The Cleanest Race: How North Korean See Themselves – And Why It Matters* (Brooklyn: Melville House, 2010), 9-19, 30-51.

AND/OR

Sonia RYANG, “Biopolitics or the Logic of Sovereign Love – Love’s Whereabouts in North Korea, in *North Korea: Toward a Better Understanding* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2009), 57-84.

LAST DAY TO SUBMIT THE FIRST DRAFT OF PAPER

M 5/2 – Historical Perspectives

Bruce CUMINGS, *The Korean War: A Modern History* (New York: The Modern Library, 2010), 149-161.

Charles K. ARMSTRONG, “Socialism, Sovereignty, and the North Korean Exception,” in *North Korea: Toward a Better Understanding* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2009), 41-56.

W 5/4 – Reading Day

F 5/6 – Reading Day

Su 5/8 – Final Project Presentation

12:25 – 2:25, Location TBA

FINAL DRAFTS OF PAPER ALSO DUE AT 12:25