

HIST 108: Introduction to Korean History

Lectures: MW 11:00-11:50 @ Van Hise 294

Discussion Section F 11:00-11:50 @ Grainger 1295

Instructor: Prof. Charles Kim

Office Hours: Fridays, 2:45-4:45 pm

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The Cheonggye Stream in Seoul, Past & Present

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 key topics from the Chosŏn Dynasty (1392- 1910), including Confucianization and the evolution of national identity. The second part focuses on politics, culture, and society 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, gender relations, and popular culture in South Korea and North Korea.

Course Objectives:

- 1) Learn about major patterns, events, people, and issues in Korean history, 1392 to present.
- 2) Learn about the relevance of the past to the present.
- 3) Gain an understanding of the ways in which Korea's history fits into regional and global history.
- 4) Read critically by taking into account an author's (or filmmaker's) perspective and main points.

Korean Studies e-School:

This is a real-time distance-learning "CourseShare" that is part of the CIC (Committee on Institutional Cooperation) e-School for Korean Studies, which currently consists of thirteen core universities located in the Midwest and the Mid-Atlantic regions. It is a relatively new program that began operation during the 2012-13 academic year. I will teach this CourseShare primarily from a video-conferencing classroom located at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW) that connects UW students with students at Ohio State University (OSU) and the University of Minnesota (U of M).

Required Texts:

Kyung Moon Hwang, *A History of Korea: An Episodic Narrative* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010). Referred to in Course Schedule as "Hwang." Available for purchase at the University Book Store, 711 State Street.

Other readings will be made available for students to view electronically on Learn@UW. Films will be available on YouTube and UW Box.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Attendance & Participation: 20%

You are expected to attend every lecture and discussion section. Missing lectures and/or discussion sections, insufficient preparation, minimal participation, and frequent late arrivals and early departures will adversely affect your attendance and participation grade. For discussion sections, be ready to talk about the assigned film or reading. You may also draw connections to earlier lectures.

- 2) Facilitating Discussion: 2%

Once this semester, you will facilitate a Friday discussion session. After reading the weekly postings of the others in your section, prepare at least 3 central questions pertaining to the film or reading assigned that Friday.

3) Weekly Postings: 30%

Each week you will write a 250-500 word posting in which you respond to the film or reading assigned for Friday's discussion section. Post your responses to the appropriate discussion thread on Learn@UW no later than 7 pm on Thursday evening. On Learn@UW, I will post a question or questions each week. You can respond to these questions, or you can post a response that addresses other issues that you find interesting. Whichever approach you take, each response paper should have a specific focus that is clearly stated in a topic sentence at or near the beginning of your posting. Your top 10 postings will be calculated into your final grade. Late postings will not be accepted.

4) Quizzes: 18%

I will periodically administer unannounced 5-minute quizzes in lecture, usually at the beginning of class. I will give neither make-up quizzes nor time extensions for students who arrive late.

5) Final examination: 30%

The final exam will consist of multiple-choice questions, items for identification, and an essay question. I will not give make-up exams unless you have a valid medical emergency with proper documentation.

Grading Scheme:

93-100%	A	78-82%	BC
88-92%	AB	70-77%	C
83-87%	B	60-69%	D

Course Policies:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Laptops or tablets may be used only to refer to selected readings that do not appear in the course reader. Surfing the Internet or doing something else unrelated to this course detracts from the learning experience. If you appear to be off task, then I will check in to see what you are doing.

Smartphones should be put on silent mode and put away at all times.

- 3) You are responsible for having the assigned reading (or notes for the assigned film) readily at your disposal for each lecture and discussion meeting.

- 4) Plagiarism – the use of another person’s words or ideas without citation – will not be tolerated in any assignment 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>.

New Resource:

New this semester, **the History Lab** is a resource center where experts (PhD students) will assist you with your history papers. No matter your stage in the writing process—choosing a topic, conducting research, composing a thesis, outlining your argument, revising your drafts—the History Lab staff is here, along with your professors and teaching assistants, to help you sharpen your skills and become a more successful writer. Sign up for a one-on-one consultation online:
<http://go.wisc.edu/hlab>

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 the McBurney Disability Resource Center.

Course Schedule:

WEEK 1

Wed., 9/2 – Course Introduction

Charles K. ARMSTRONG, *The Koreas* (London: Routledge, 2007), 1-17
(Learn@UW)

NOTE – For UW students, class will not be held on 9/7 or 9/9. Classes will resume on:

Fri., 9/11 – The Late Koryŏ Era

Hwang, 33-59

Film: *The Warrior* (Musa, dir. Sung-su KIM, 2001, 155 min.)

<https://uwmadison.box.com/s/bl6717pzz2nbt254to3nokv6qozszhzq>

Note: In addition to the weekly 11:00-11:50 section meetings in 1295 Grainger, I will also hold online discussion sections with OSU and U of M students on Fridays at 9:45-10:35 a.m. and 1:25-2:15 p.m. Contact me if you are interested in joining one of these online sections, as an alternative to the traditional section meetings in Grainger.

I. THE CHOSŎN ERA (1392-1910)

WEEK 2

Mon., 9/14 – Establishing the Chosŏn Dynasty

Hwang, 60-79

Wed., 9/16 – War and Foreign Relations in the 16th and 17th Centuries

Hwang, 80-98

Fri., 9/18 – Practicing Confucianism

YI Tŏngmu, “Small Manners for Scholars (Sasojŏl)” (Learn@UW)

SONG Siyŏl, “Instructions to My Daughter” (Learn@UW)

WEEK 3

Mon., 9/21 – Intellectual Trends After the Wars

Hwang, 99-108

Wed., 9/23 – Economic and Social Changes in the Late Chosŏn

Hwang, 109-117

PAK Chiwŏn, “The Story of a Yangban” (Learn@UW)

Fri., 9/25 – Pansori

Film: *Chunhyang* (*Ch'unhyangjŏn*, dir. IM Kwon-taek, 120 min., 2000)

<https://uwmadison.box.com/s/jc2i55eo77ykspwv7wlguw7g3y6g3mhd>

WEEK 4

Mon., 9/28 – Korea & Global Imperialism

Hwang, 118-128

Wed., 9/30 – Reform Movements

Hwang, 129-137

Fri., 10/2 – Peasant Protest

“Reforms from Above, 1894-1895” (Learn@UW)

II. THE COLONIAL ERA (1910-1945)

WEEK 5

Mon., 10/5 – Colonization and Military Rule

Hwang, 150-160

Wed., 10/7 – The March First Movement & Cultural Rule

Hwang, 161-182

Fri., 10/9 – Resistance and Compromise

AN Ch'angho, "Grand Strategy for Independence" (Learn@UW)

YI Kwangsu, "On National Reconstruction" (Learn@UW)

WEEK 6

Mon., 10/12 – Korean Communists

"The Communist Movement" (Learn@UW)

Wed., 10/14 – The Asia-Pacific War

Hwang, 183-194

Fri., 10/16 – Migration

Film: *A Forgotten People: The Sakhalin Koreans* (dir. Dai-Sil KIM-GIBSON, 1995, 59 min.) <https://uwmadison.box.com/s/zbe7q6xmf2qy61nhlivun2tsnxiypna>

WEEK 7

Mon., 10/19 – Politics After Liberation, 1945-1950

Hwang, 195-204

Weekly response to *A Forgotten People* due by 5 p.m. on Learn@UW.

Wed., 10/21 – The Korean War, 1950-present

Guest Lecture: Dr. Hyuk YU, Professor Emeritus, UW Chemistry Department

Hwang, 205-212

Fri., 10/23 – War Against the People

Film: *Grandmother's Flower* (dir. MOON Jeong-hyun, 2007, 89 min.)
<https://uwmadison.box.com/s/mm684gsnkaydno8fsidyopkzxa6gtj3>

III. THE CONTEMPORARY ERA

WEEK 8

Mon., 10/26 – Postcolonial/Postwar Economic Development: South Korea

Hwang, 225-235

Wed., 10/28 – South Korea's Democratization

Hwang, 236-248, 261-269

Fri., 10/30 – Assessing Park's Developmental Dictatorship

Film: *Ode to My Father* (*Kukche sijang*, dir. Je-kyoon YOON, 2014, 126 min.)

“Ode to My Father’ stirs the box office and debate in South Korea,” *Los Angeles Times*, January 31, 2015, <http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/movies/la-et-mn-ode-to-my-father-south-korea-20150201-story.html>

WEEK 9

Mon., 11/2 – Postcolonial/Postwar Economic Development: North Korea

Hwang, 213-224

Wed., 11/4 – Juche Ideology

Hwang, 249-260

Fri., 11/6 – Practicing Juche

Film: *A State of Mind* (dir. Daniel GORDON, 2004, 93 min.)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldeaALLbDY4>

WEEK 10

Mon., 11/9 – Contemporary North Korea: Politics (1994 – present)

Bruce CUMINGS, “The Kims’ Three Bodies: Toward Understanding Dynastic Succession in North Korea” in *North Korea in Transition: Politics, Economy, and Society* (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2013), 67-90. (Learn@UW)

Wed., 11/11 – Contemporary North Korea: Social & Economic Changes

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/>

Rüdiger Frank, “Rason Special Economic Zone: North Korea as It Could Be,” *38 North* (December 16, 2014): <http://38north.org/2014/12/rfrank121614/>

Fri., 11/13 – Daily Lives in North Korea

Website: Start by reading *New York Times* interactive webpage: http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/06/10/world/asia/north-korea-photos-video.html?emc=eta1&_r=0

Be sure to click the link to the related story with video clips:

<http://lens.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/06/10/live-from-north-korea/>

Then explore his Instagram page: <https://instagram.com/everydaydprk/>

WEEK 11

Mon., 11/16 – Contemporary South Korea: A Changing Society (1)

Hwang, 270-280

Wed., 11/18 – Contemporary South Korea: A Changing Society (2)

Cho Haejoang, “Living With Conflicting Subjectivities: Mother, Motherly Wife, and Sexy Woman in the Transition from Colonial-Modern to Postmodern Korea,” in *Under Construction* (Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 2002), 165-196 (Learn@UW)

Fri., 11/20 – Contemporary South Korea: Gender, Generations & Memory

Students’ Choice:

Mother (dir. Joon-ho BONG, 2009, 128 min.)
<https://uwmadison.box.com/s/428cq7r9c873bo6v5awghfkdks6sw3o>

OR

Miss Granny (dir. Dong-hyuk HWANG, 2014, 124 min.)
<https://uwmadison.box.com/s/ntcihrw59a3msy28sdmibitzn4z7a4bv>

WEEK 12

Mon., 11/23 – Friday, 11/27: **THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASSES**

WEEK 13

Mon., 11/31 – Zainichi Koreans (Koreans in Japan)

KANG Sangjung and Robin FLETCHER, “Memories of a Zainichi Korean Childhood,” *Japanese Studies* 26 (December 2006): 267-281. (Learn@UW)

Wed., 12/2 – North Korea(ns) in South Korea

Christopher Green and Stephen Epstein, “Now On My Way to Meet Who? South Korean Television, North Korean Refugees, and the Dilemmas of Representation,” *The Asia-Pacific Journal* 11 (October 14, 2013): <http://japanfocus.org/site/view/4007>

YouTube Video: “North Korean Defector Beauties Now on my way to meet you”: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5k4mYo_OUZg

Fri., 12/4 – South Korea, Korean Americans, Koreatown, and Pop Music

Finn Olaf-Jones, “36 Hours in Koreatown, Los Angeles,” *New York Times*, February 11, 2015, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/15/travel/what-to-do-in-koreatown-los-angeles.html>

“Steven Yeun and Conan Visit a Korean Spa,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7oxBg8en-4>

Eun-Young Jung, “Transnational Migrations and YouTube Sensations: Korean Americans, Popular Music, and Social Media,” *Ethnomusicology* 58 (Winter 2014), 54-82. (Learn@UW)

Additional clips or short readings to be assigned.

WEEK 14

Mon., 12/7 – Wed., 12/9 – NO LECTURES: Begin preparing for final.

Fri., 12/11 – REVIEW SESSION FOR FINAL EXAM

FINALS WEEK

Thurs., 12/17, 5:05-7:05 p.m. – Location TBD

Simplified Chronology of Korean History

Paleolithic Age: $\approx 400,000 - 10,000$ BCE

Neolithic Age: $\approx 6000 - 1000$ BCE

Bronze/Iron Ages ≈ 1000 BCE – 300 CE

Old Chosŏn $\approx 2333 - 108$ BCE

Jin $\approx 3^{\text{rd}} - 2^{\text{nd}}$ centuries BCE

Okchŏ $\approx 2^{\text{nd}}$ century BCE – 5th century CE

Puyŏ (Ch. Fuyu) $\approx 2^{\text{nd}}$ century BCE – 494 CE

Tongye ≈ 150 BCE – 400 CE

Samhan (Mahan, Chinhan, Pyŏnhan) $\approx 1^{\text{st}}$ century BCE – 4th century CE

Three Kingdoms Era: 57 BCE – 668 CE

Kaya States: 42 – 562 CE

Koguryŏ Kingdom: 37 BCE – 668 CE

Paekche Kingdom: 18 BCE – 660 CE

Silla Kingdom: 57 BCE – 668 CE

Unified Silla Era: 668 – 935

Parhae (Ch. Bohai) Kingdom: 698 – 926

Koryŏ Era: 918/935 – 1392

Chosŏn Era: 1392 – 1910

Colonial Era: 1910 – 1945

Contemporary Era: 1945 – present

North Korea (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): 1948- present

South Korea (Republic of Korea): 1948 - present