

ANS 301M:
INTRODUCTION TO KOREAN CULTURE AND HISTORY
Unique #31025
Fall 2009

Meets: TuTh 12:30-2:00, CBA 4.326
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Office Hours: Tu 2-3, Th 10-12 or by appointment

Overview: This course is designed as an introductory overview of Korean history, culture, and society from ancient times to the present. It aims also to encourage students to locate their knowledge about Korea in relation to perspectives from other disciplines, while thinking critically about how history, culture, and society are understood. This class has no prerequisites.

Note: some of you may have studied Korean history in middle or high school. Do not let this make you complacent. To put it bluntly, knowing the facts and the standard narrative of Korean history will not be enough if you can't critically analyze perspectives and interpretations. This is what separates college history from high school history.

Course Activities: Class lectures will be supplemented with films, slides, and other visual materials. Discussion is also important; students who contribute observations and/or questions will find this reflected in their class participation/attendance grades!

Assignments/Grading: Your grade will be based on

- 1 map quiz (4% of total grade)
- 2 tests during the term (20% of total grade each for a total of 40%)
- 1 final exam (30% of total grade)
- 4 short reaction papers (one page or so each; 4% each for 16% total)
- Class participation/attendance (10% of total grade)

The two tests during the term will involve ID (identification) questions requiring a one paragraph response. A good answer will not only identify a given term, but explain its significance in some depth (we will discuss this further in class). The final exam will consist of both IDs and one or two essay questions. ID QUESTIONS USED ON EXAMS WILL BE DRAWN FROM A LIST OF KEY CONCEPTS I WILL POST EACH WEEK. If you use these posted documents as guides for study and preparation, you should do fine on exams.

The two tests during the term will be based only on a portion of the Key Concepts. The final exam, however, is CUMULATIVE. Don't be surprised come December.

Each of the four short reaction papers (assigned throughout the term; 1-2 pp. each) will ask you briefly to consider a specific issue and present an argument. Grading

will be based on the quality of your argument, your ability to support it (where appropriate), and your writing.

All papers must be submitted at the beginning of class by the date indicated. Late papers will not be accepted without prior consultation. Likewise, I will not accept email submissions without prior permission and a good reason. After papers have been returned and grades posted, it is your responsibility to inform me if yours is missing ASAP.

I will take attendance on random days throughout the term. Students who are present will get a point; those who are absent, without notification, will not. Class participation will be factored in to arrive at the final attendance/participation grade.

I will make use of plus/minus grading. Generally, I regard averages ≥ 92 (rounded) as an A, 89-91 as an A-, 87-88 as a B+, 82-86 as a B, and so on at equivalent points down the scale.

Academic Dishonesty/Cheating can result in automatic course failure and a report to the appropriate Dean. Your work on exams and papers should be your own.

Email: I usually check email once or more a day, but not always, particularly on weekends. Do not rely on me reading emails you send the night before an exam or paper is due.

Cell phones: Cell phones and other communication devices should be turned off or (if you truly need to be in contact) set for silent/vibration mode. During exams, I will insist that they be completely off. If you need to make or receive a call, please leave the room before you begin talking. Don't ask, just go. Likewise if you need to use the bathroom (during exams, I will allow only one person to leave at a time, and without his/her belongings). Please do not abuse this policy.

Also, please do not be text messaging your friends during class. If I see your hands fiddling beneath the desk, I will assume the worst.

Laptop computers in the classroom are likewise a growing issue in higher education circles. They can be very useful in taking notes—many of you, I'm sure, type faster than you write—but put to other uses they can be an immense distraction to you and others around you. Let me put it this way: if I look at your laptop screen during class, I had better see note taking (rather than internet surfing, games, studying for another class, or catching up on reading you didn't do). If not, you will lose the privilege of using a computer in class for the rest of the term.

During tests no electronics (beyond wristwatches) will be permitted on your desks. This, unfortunately, goes for electronic dictionaries as well.

Special Needs: Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

Religious Holy Day Observance: If an assignment or exam falls due on a day when you are observing a religious holy day, I will work with you to find an acceptable alternative time to complete the assignment.

Readings: The reading load for this class is variable. Read intelligently. For some people, studying Korea can present a morass of unfamiliar details. The reason I will give you key concepts weekly is not only towards tests and exams, it is also to help you pick out what is important while doing the reading to begin with.

The following books have been ordered and are available at the Coop. Each is also on 2-hour reserve at the PCL library. Please let the Coop (and me) know if a book that you need is out of stock. I recommend that you buy relatively early in the term, since the Coop sometimes returns books to their publishers on short notice:

Seth, Michael, *A Concise History of Korea*.

Cumings, Bruce, *Korea's Place in the Sun*.

[optional] Russell, Mark James, *Pop Goes Korea*

Other readings (as well as course documents such as weekly lists of key concepts, the map quiz review, etc.) will be placed on E-reserve. These are .pdf copies of articles and the like; you can read them on screen or (my recommendation) print them so you can mark them up. E-reserve can be accessed from any computer connected to the UT system. Go to <http://reserves.lib.utexas.edu/courseindex.asp> and search by the course number or my name. The required password to access materials for this class is **KorHC** (capital letters matter). This is for the use of students of this class only; please do not share the password with others. The listing should be alphabetical by the author's last name or (when there is no listed author) by the document title.

Optionally, the readings on ERes will also be available in course packet form—I will have details early in the class.

Schedule:

8/27 Introduction and course concepts - IMPORTANT

Read the document “Map Quiz Review” on the E-Reserve site for this class

9/1 Beginnings?: The Korean? Peninsula? in Ancient Times

Seth, *Concise History of Korea*, Intro and ch. 1.

Lee, Peter H., *Sourcebook of Korean Civilization*, vol. 1, pp. 6-7 {“Tangun”} and pp. 8-9 {“Yü Huan: Ancient Korea and Yen”}

9/3 The Three Kingdoms (first century B.C.-935 A.D.)

Map Quiz (in class, 5 minutes)

Seth, chs. 2-3.

Lee, *Sourcebook*, vol. 1, pp. 24-35 {"Founders of Tribal Federations"}
O'Rourke, Kevin, *The Book of Korean Poetry: Songs of Shilla and Koryô* (Iowa City: U Iowa Press, 2006), pp. 10-21. {on *hyangga*}

9/8 *Discussion: Ancient History, Modern Debates*

Ch'oe, Yông-ho, "Reinterpreting Traditional History in North Korea," *Journal of Asian Studies* 40(3)[1981]: 503-523.
Lee, Chong-sik, "History and Politics in Japanese-Korean Relations: The Textbook Controversy and Beyond," *Journal of Northeast Asian Studies* 2(4)[1983]: 69-93.

Reaction paper 1 assigned

9/10 *Koryô (918-1392)*

Seth, chs. 4-5.
Lee, *Sourcebook*, vol. 1, pp. 414-419 {"Chinul: Straight Talk on the True Mind" and "Chinul: Secrets on Cultivating the Mind"}
Lee, *Sourcebook*, vol. 1, pp. 428-438 {especially pp. 436-439 "Monk Myoch'ông's Use of Geomancy"}
Lee, *Sourcebook*, vol. 1, pp. 373-77 {"Pak Ch'o: Anti-Buddhist Memorial"}

9/15 *Mongol Rule: Korean and Global Perspectives*

Janet Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony*, chs. 1, 5.

Reaction paper 1 due

9/17 **Test 1 (in class)**

9/22 *Early Chosôn (1392-1592)*

Seth, chs. 6-7.
Chun, Hae-jong, "Sino-Korean Tributary Relations in the Ch'ing Period," in John K. Fairbank, ed., *The Chinese World Order* (Cambridge: Harvard, 1968), pp. 90-111.
Wagner, Edward W., "The Ladder of Success in Yi Dynasty Korea," *Occasional Papers on Korea* 1: 1-8.

9/24 *Confucianization as Ideological Process: The Making of "Traditional" Korea*

Haboush, JaHyun Kim, "The Confucianization of Korean Society," in Gilbert Rozman ed., *The East Asian Region: Confucian Heritage and Its Modern Adaptation*, pp. 84-110.
Read ahead in Seth, pp. 206-07 from ch. 8.

9/29 Han'gûl and Rice: Transformative Technologies of Everyday Life

Kim-Renaud, Young-Key, ed. *King Sejong the Great: The Light of 15th Century Korea* (Washington: International Circle of Korean Linguistics, 1992), pp. 9-12, 21-24, 43-50, and 53-60 {i.e. articles by Don Baker, Milan Hejtmanek, S. Robert Ramsey, and Pokee Sohn}.

Lee, *Sourcebook*, vol. 1, pp. 519-20 {Ch'oe Malli's dissent}

Braudel, Fernand, "Preface," in *The Structures of Everyday Life*, vol. 1, pp. 27-29.

Bray, Francesca, "Introduction," in *The Rice Economies: Technology and Development in Asian Societies*, pp. 1-7.

Yi Ch'un-yông, "A Historical Survey of Agricultural Techniques in Korea," *Korea Journal* 14(1): 21-27.

10/1 *Visualizing Chosôn Society, part I*

Film: *Chunhyang*

10/6 *Visualizing Chosôn Society, part II*

Film: *Chunhyang*

10/8 *Late Chosôn (1592-ca. 1800): The Imjin War and Its Aftermath*

Seth, ch. 8.

Yôngho Ch'oe, Peter H. Lee, and Wm. Theodore de Bary, eds., *Sources of Korean Tradition*, vol. 2 (New York: Columbia, 2000), pp. 26-27 ("Chông Yagyong: The Roots of Royal Authority"), 70-88 ("Reform Proposals: Land Reform") and 181-188 ("Culture and National Identity: New Perspectives on History").

10/13 *Tales of the Base and the Exalted: The Problem of Korean Slavery, and a Lady's View on a Royal Mystery*

Lee, *Sourcebook*, vol. 1, pp. 327 {"Inheritance of Slave Status" – on Koryô}

Wagner, Edward W., "Social Stratification in Seventeenth-Century Korea: Some Observations from a 1663 Seoul Census Register," *Occasional Papers on Korea* 1: 36-54. {Especially the first four pages and the conclusion.}

Palais, James B., "A Search for Korean Uniqueness," *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 55(2): 409-425.

Ch'oe, Yôngho, et al., *Sources*, vol. 2, pp. 159-61 {"Yu Hyôngwôn: Slaves"}

Haboush, JaHyun Kim, *The Memoirs of Lady Hyegyông*, pp. 241-336 ("The Memoir of 1805"). Other sections (particularly pp. 6-35) optional.

Reaction paper 2 assigned

10/15 *The Nineteenth Century*

Seth, ch. 9.
Cumings, Bruce, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, ch. 2.

10/20 *Some Elite and Popular Responses*

Ch'oe, Yôngho, et al., *Sources*, vol. 2, pp. 140-42 {"Yi Hangno: Sinify the Western Barbarians"}

Schmid, Andre, "Decentering the 'Middle Kingdom': The Problem of China in Korean Nationalist Thought, 1895-1910," in Brook and Schmid, eds., *Nation Work: Asian Elites and National Identities* (Ann Arbor: U. Michigan, 2000), pp. 83-107.

The Independent (newspaper), selections from 1896 (April 7, April 30, August 22, September 5, October 22).

Ch'oe, Yôngho, et al., *Sources*, vol. 2, pp. 228-35 and 262-72 (on Tonghak).

Reaction paper 2 due

10/22 *Japanese Colonialism in Korea (1905-1945)*

Cumings, *KPIS*, ch. 3.
Ch'oe, Yôngho, et al., *Sources*, vol. 2, pp. 336-39 {"Declaration of Independence"}

10/27 *Civilization and Culture in Contest*

Annual Report on the Administration of Chosôn 1923-4 (selections on ERes).

Komatsu Midori, "The Old People and the New Government," *Transactions of the Korea Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society* 4(1), 1912, pp. 1-12.

Sin Ch'aeho, "What is History? What Shall We Study in Korean History?," in Ch'oe, Lee, and de Bary, *Sources*, vol. 2, pp. 317-319.

Allen, Chizuko T., "Northeast Asia Centered Around Korea: Ch'oe Nam-sôn's View of History," *Journal of Asian Studies* 49(4), 1990, pp. 787-806.

10/29 *Complex Stories: Some Colonial Experiences*

Kang, Hildi, *Under the Black Umbrella*, ch. 5 (pp. 49-60) and chs. 11-12 (pp. 111-129).

Kim San and Nym Wales, *Song of Ariran* (New York: John Day, 1941), Chs. I (pp. 3-10), XVI (pp. 140-146), XVII (pp. 147-151), and XXV (pp. 211-216).

Yi Sang, "Wings," in Peter H. Lee, ed., *Flowers of Fire* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii, 1974), pp. 34-57.

Howard, Keith, ed., *True Stories of the Korean Comfort Women* (London: Cassell, 1995), pp. 41-49 {"Kim Tôkchin"} and 95-103 {"Yi Okpun"}.

Yang, Hyunah, "Re-membering the Korean Military Comfort Women: Nationalism, Sexuality, and Silencing," in Elaine H. Kim and Chungmoo Choi, eds., *Dangerous Women: Gender and Korean Nationalism* (New York: Routledge, 1998), pp. 123-139.

11/3 Test 2 (in class)

11/5 *The Post-Liberation Cauldron and the Origins of Korean Division (1945-50)*

Cumings, *KPIS*, ch. 4.

11/10 *The Korean War (1950-53) and its Aftermath*

Cumings, *KPIS*, ch. 5.

Chôn Kwangyong, "Kapitan Ri," in Marshall Pihl and Bruce and Ju-chan Fulton, eds., *Land of Exile: Contemporary Korean Fiction*, pp. 58-83.

Kang Sôk-kyông, "Days and Dreams," in *Words of Farewell: Stories by Korean Women Writers* (Seattle: Seal Press, 1989).

Reaction paper 3 assigned

11/12 *South Korean Industrialization*

Cumings, *KPIS*, ch. 6.

Park Chung Hee, *The Country, The Revolution, and I* (Seoul: Hollym, 1970[1962]), pp. 165-179 {"What We Should Do and How"}.

Jang Jip Choi, "Political Cleavages in South Korea," in Hagen Koo, ed., *State and Society in Contemporary Korea* (Ithaca: Cornell, 1993), pp. 1-50.

11/17 *The Political Context: South Korean Authoritarianism and the Democratic Movement*

Cumings, *KPIS*, ch. 7.

Ch'oe, Yôngho, et al., *Sources*, vol. 2, pp. 401-11 {"Kim Chiha: 'Five Bandits'"}.

Reaction paper 3 due

11/19 *Memory, History, and the Minjung*

Linda S. Lewis, *Laying Claim to the Memory of May*, pp. 3-71 {Eres}

Nancy Abelmann, *Echoes of the Past, Epics of Dissent* (Berkeley: California, 1996), pp. 20-38 {"The *Minjung* Imaginary"}.

Namhee Lee, "The South Korean Student Movement: Undonggwon as a Counterpublic Sphere," in *Korean Society*, Charles Armstrong ed. (London: Routledge, 2002), pp. 132-164.

11/24 *North Korean Politics and Society*

Kim Ilsông, "On Eliminating Dogmatism and Formalism and Establishing Juche in Ideological Work," in Ch'oe, Lee, and de Bary eds., *Sources*, vol. 2, pp. 420-425.

Andrei Lankov, *North of the DMZ*, parts 4, 8, 18, and “In Lieu of a Conclusion.” (pp. 66-76, 125-140, 305-330)

Reaction Paper 4 Assigned

11/26 ***THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS***

12/1 *Contemporary South Korea: Politics*

Sunhyuk Kim, “Civil Society in South Korea: From Grand Democracy Movements to Petty Interest Groups?” *Journal of Northeast Asian Studies* 15(2): 81-97

Laurel Kendall, ed., *Under Construction*, chs. 1 (Intro) and 4 (Seungsook Moon)

Reaction Paper 4 due

12/3 [optional reading] Russell, *Pop Goes Korea*

Final Exam Thursday, 12/10, 2-5 pm, location TBA (tentative)