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 \( \geq 92 \) (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.

**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.

**University Notices and Policies**

**University of Texas Honor Code**
The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

**Use of E-Mail for Official Correspondence to Students**
Email is recognized as an official mode of university correspondence; therefore, you are responsible for reading your email for university and course-related information and announcements. You are responsible to keep the university informed about changes to your e-mail address. You should check your e-mail regularly and frequently to stay current with university-related communications, some of which may be time-critical. You can find UT Austin’s policies and instructions for updating your e-mail address at [http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php](http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.php).

**Documented Disability Statement**
The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for
qualified students with disabilities. If you require special accommodations, you will need to obtain a letter that documents your disability from Services for Studies with Disabilities. Present the letter to me at the beginning of the semester so we can discuss the accommodations you need. No later than five business days before an exam, you should remind me of any testing accommodations you will need. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd.

Religious Holidays
By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL)
If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual’s behavior. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal.

Emergency Evacuation Policy
Occupants of buildings on the UT Austin campus are required to evacuate and assemble outside when a fire alarm is activated or an announcement is made. Please be aware of the following policies regarding evacuation:

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of the classroom and the building. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when you entered the building.
- If you require assistance to evacuate, inform me in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow my instructions or those of class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless you’re given instructions by the Austin Fire Department, the UT Austin Police Department, or the Fire Prevention Services office.

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.

Other readings (as well as course documents such as weekly lists of key concepts, the map quiz review, etc.) will be placed on Blackboard, which can be accessed via the website courses.utexas.edu with your UT EID and password. 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.

Schedule:

8/26 Introduction and course concepts - IMPORTANT

Read the document “Map Quiz Review” on the Blackboard site for this class
8/31 *Beginnings?: The Korean Peninsula in Ancient Times*

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

9/2 *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”)

9/7 *Discussion: Ancient History, Modern Debates*


**Reaction paper 1 assigned**

9/9 *Koryó (918-1392)*

Seth, chs. 4-5.
Lee, *Sourcebook*, vol. 1, pp. 373-77 {“Pak Ch’o: Anti-Buddhist Memorial”}

9/14 *Mongol Rule: Korean and Global Perspectives*


**Reaction paper 1 due**

9/16 *Test 1 (in class)*

9/21 *Early Chosôn (1392-1592)*

Seth, chs. 6-7.


9/23 *Confucianization as Ideological Process: The Making of “Traditional” Korea*


Read ahead in Seth, pp. 206-07 from ch. 8.

9/28 *Han’gûl and Rice: Transformative Technologies of Everyday Life*


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


9/30 *Late Chosôn (1592-ca. 1800): The Imjin War and Its Aftermath*

Seth, ch. 8.


10/5 *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 Koryŏ}

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.}


Ch’oe, Yŏngho, et al., *Sources*, vol. 2, pp. 159-61 {“Yu Hyŏngwŏn: Slaves”}

Reaction paper 2 assigned

10/7 The Nineteenth Century

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

10/12 Some Elite and Popular Responses

Ch’oe, Yôngho, et al., Sources, vol. 2, pp. 140-42 {“Yi Hangno: Sinify the Western Barbarians”}
The Independent (newspaper), selections from 1896 (April 7, April 30, August 22, September 5, October 22).

Reaction paper 2 due

10/14 Japanese Colonialism in Korea (1905-1945)

Cumings, KPIS, ch. 3.

10/19 Civilization and Culture in Contest


10/21 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).

10/26 (Post)colonialism and the imagination of Korean culture, part I

Film: *Sôp’yônje*

10/28 (Post)colonialism and the imagination of Korean culture, part II

Film: *Sôp’yônje*

11/2 **Test 2 (in class)**

11/4 *The Post-Liberation Cauldron and the Origins of Korean Division (1945-50)*

Cumings, *KPIS*, ch. 4.

11/9 *The Korean War (1950-53) and its Aftermath*

Cumings, *KPIS*, ch. 5.

**Reaction paper 3 assigned**

11/11 *South Korean Industrialization*

Cumings, *KPIS*, ch. 6.

11/16 *The Political Context: South Korean Authoritarianism and the Democratic Movement*

Cumings, *KPIS*, ch. 7.
Ch’oe, Yongho, et al., *Sources*, vol. 2, pp. 401-11 (“Kim Chiha: ‘Five Bandits’”)

**Reaction paper 3 due**
11/18 *Memory, History, and the Minjung*

Linda S. Lewis, *Laying Claim to the Memory of May*, pp. 3-71 {Blackboard}
Nancy Abelmann, *Échoes of the Past, Épics of Dissent* (Berkeley: California, 1996), pp. 20-38 {“The Minjung Imaginary”}.

11/23 *North Korean Politics and Society*

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**

11/25 ***THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS***

11/30 *Contemporary South Korea: Politics and Society*

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

**Reaction Paper 4 due**

12/2 *Korea amidst Globalization: Considering the “Korean Wave” (Hallyu)*


**Final Exam Thursday, 12/9, 2-5 pm, location TBA (tentative)**