574:210 Introduction to Korean Culture:
From Geomancy to G-Dragon
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Fall 2019

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Day/Time: Tuesdays & Fridays 9:50-11:10am
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Description: This course surveys the history of Korea from ancient
times to the present. We will explore the culture and history of the
Korean peninsula from ancient times to the present with a focus on the Chosŏn
Dynasty (1392-1910) and the twentieth century. The subject matter of the course
is the distinctive evolution of Korean civilization within the East Asian cultural
sphere and beyond, from its myths of origin through its struggles to survive
amidst powerful neighbors, down to the twentieth-century challenges of colonial
domination and its poisonous legacies, war and
division, and the puzzles of reworking a hierarchical
Neo-Confucian society within the context of global
capitalism. While dealing with the broad scope of
Korea in the historical context, building on key
aspects of pre-modern and modern Korean culture, we
will move chronologically through major historical,
political, and social moments that inform
contemporary Korean identity, and arrive at the
particulars of North and South Korean societies today.
Incorporating films, literatures, and original sources in
translation, we will examine not only Korea’s past but
also how Korea’s past shapes Korea as it is now and as it
might evolve in the future.

Course Requirements and Grading:

ATTENDANCE is mandatory. Allowed up to 3 absences
(excused or unexcused) without penalty. If you are NEVER
absent, then I will add 3 points to your final grade. If you are absent once, I will add 2 points. 1 point will
be added if you are absent twice. No points will be reduced even if you are absent 3 times. Even if the
absences are caused by emergencies or important (personal, professional, etc.) obligations or even illnesses, they still count as absences. Either you are here or you are not. These absences do not require outside documentation, though e-mails or in-person touching of base -- preferably before, or if it cannot be helped, after -- is always appreciated.

After 3 absences, any *unexcused* absence will result additional 1/3 of a grade reduced from your final grade. Excused absences include documented medical emergencies or prior permission from me at least a week in advance. Exceptions will be made, of course, for prolonged medical problems, illnesses (psychological or physical), family or other relationship crises, provided that you are able to document these situations through official channels.

CLASS PARTICIPATION (10%) If you average one substantial contribution per class, you will receive 100% of this participation grade. Once every two sessions will be equivalent of 90%. Once every three sessions will be 80%, and so on. *Class participation will be tallied once at Midterm period, and again at the end of the term.* (You cannot “bank” comments from one week to the next, meaning if you participate many times on Tuesday and are silent on Friday, you may be covered for that week, but not for the following Tuesday.) In addition to logging their frequency, I reserve the right to assess your comments for their quality. If you are anxious about speaking up in class, you can make up for this by contributing on Canvas under the Discussion tab.

READING RESPONSE (10%) Ten short entries (one paragraph, 10-15 lines or so) to the class Canvas site are to be posted on a weekly basis, due the night before class. No specific topics will be assigned for these postings. It’s a short think piece, in which you can raise questions or make comments about the topic and readings for that week. The point of the weekly posting is for me to see something that you are thinking about the course material each week, before we come together as a group to talk about it. These will not be individually graded but I will read all of them each week. *No late posting will be accepted.

PRESENTATION (10%) Each student will be expected, once during the semester, to open the discussion with a brief presentation of the assigned readings. You will discuss important themes that they raise (this should not be a retelling of the plot of the work). Last but not least, present questions for discussion that reflect your careful reading of the texts. (10-15 min.) *You must submit a 1-2 page summary or outline on Canvas the night before the presentation.* You do not have to write a reading response for the session you have chosen to present for.

FINAL PAPER (20%) An 7-8 page final paper is due at the end of Week 14. You will receive more information about this assignment as the semester progresses.

TWO EXAMS (20% & 30%) There will be a midterm and a final. You will receive more information about this exams as the semester progresses. *Both will be in-class.

**Academic Integrity Policy:**

Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.
PLAGIARISM Cheating on tests or plagiarizing materials in your papers deprives you of the educational benefits of preparing these materials appropriately. It is personally dishonest to cheat on a test or to hand in a paper based on unacknowledged words or ideas that someone else originated. It is also unfair, since it gives you an undeserved advantage over your fellow students who are graded on the basis of their own work. In this class we will take cheating very seriously. **All suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism will be automatically referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs, and we will recommend penalties appropriate to the gravity of the infraction.** The university's policy on Academic Integrity is available at [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy). I strongly advise you to familiarize yourself with this document, both for this class and for your other classes and future work. To help protect you, and future students, from plagiarism, we require all papers to be submitted through Turnitin.com.

Since what counts as plagiarism is not always clear, I quote the definition given in Rutgers' policy:

Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words, ideas, or results without giving that person appropriate credit. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and both direct quotation and paraphrasing must be cited properly according to the accepted format for the particular discipline or as required by the instructor in a course. Some common examples of plagiarism are:

- Copying word for word (i.e. quoting directly) from an oral, printed, or electronic source without proper attribution.
- Paraphrasing without proper attribution, i.e., presenting in one’s own words another person’s written words or ideas as if they were one’s own.
- Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.

Consult *Don’t Plagiarize: Document Your Research!* For tips about how to take notes so that you don't plagiarize by accident.

[http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid_plagiarism](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid_plagiarism)
[http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-students)

**Student Wellness Services:**

[Just In Case Web App](http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid_plagiarism) Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

**Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)** (848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ [http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/](http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/) CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students’ efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.
Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA) (848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/ The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services (848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / https://ods.rutgers.edu Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.

Scarlet Listeners (732) 247-5555 / https://rutgers.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/scarletlistenersh Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.

Required texts:

Films used in the course (clips will be shown in class; you do not need to purchase)
- *Sweet Dream* (1936)
- *A Flower in Hell* (1958)
- *Welcome to Dongmakgol* (2005)
- *Ode to My Father* (2014)

Course Schedule

*Indicates primary sources in English translation
**Assignment or exam related information
Wk 1: Early Korea

T 9/3: Course Introduction

F 9/6: Goguryo & Silla Dynasty
  ● *A History of Korea, p. 1-28
  ● *Sources of Korean Tradition Vol. 1 p. 61-67 ("From the Three Prophecies of Queen Sondok" up to "Kangsu")

Wk 2: Goryeo Dynasty

T 9/10: Goryeo at Home
  ● *A History of Korea, p. 29-50

F 9/13: Religion and Statecraft in Goryeo
  ● *Sources of Korean Tradition Vol. 1: 151-156 (Founding of Koryŏ)
  ● *Sources of Korean Tradition Vol. 1: 224-6; 237-9 (Publication of the Tripitaka)
  ● *Sources of Korean Tradition Vol. 1: 243-5 (Geomancy to King T’aeko and Confucian Advice)

Wk 3: Joseon State Ideology

T 9/17: The Family & Rites
  ● *A History of Korea, p. 60-67, p. 76-84

F 9/20: Confucianism and Ritual
  ● *Sources of Korean Tradition Vol. 1: 251-256 (Neo-Confucianism)
  ● *Sources of Korean Tradition Vol. 1: 313-317 (The Role of Rites, Funerary and Ancestral Rites)
  ● *Sources of Korean Tradition Vol. 2, 46-52 (Women’s Education)
  ● *Sources of Korean Tradition Vol. 2, 162-167 (Secondary Sons)

Wk 4: Joseon: Everyday Life

T 9/24: Popular Culture
  ● *A History of Korea, p. 94-101, in class screening Chunhyang (excerpt)

F 9/27: Private Letters

**MIDTERM REVIEW SHEET**
Wk 5: Imjin War and Manchu Invasions

T 10/1: The Great Invasions (1592-1636)
- *A History of Korea*, p. 68-75

F 10/4: Letters during Wartime I
- In-class screening: *The Admiral: Roaring Currents* (2014) and *The Fortress* (2017), (excerpts)

Wk 6: Joseon Culture, Arts, and Technology

T 10/8: The Early Popular Novel
- *The Story of Hong Gildong* p. 1-77

F 10/11: Intellectual Opening
- *A History of Korea*, p. 85-94

Wk 7: Midterm

T 10/15: **In-class Midterm Exam**

F 10/18: **CLASS CANCELLED**

Wk 8: End of Joseon and Japan’s Seizure of Korea

T 10/22: Emergence of Nationalism
- *A History of Korea*, p. 102-128

F 10/25: Resistance and Empowerment: Ethno-nationalism and Tonghak Syncretism
- *Sourcebook of Korean Civilization Vol. 2*, p. 312-322 (Negative Response to Western Civilization)

**FINAL PAPER PROMPT**

Wk 9: Japanese Colonialism

T 10/29: Japanese Takeover
- *A History of Korea*, p. 129-146
- *Sources of Korean Tradition Vol. 2*, 322-5 (Development of New Literature)
- In-Class Screening of “Sweet Dream” (excerpt)
F 11/1: Wartime Mobilization
  ● *A History of Korea*, p. 147-165
  ● In-Class Screening of “Straits of Choson” (excerpt)

**Wk 10 Liberation, National Division, and the Korean War**

T 11/5: Politics after Liberation
  ● Charles K. Armstrong’s *The Koreas* p. 1-17
  ● In-class screening: *Flower of Hell* (1958) (excerpt)

F 11/8: Post-Liberation and the Korean War
  ● *A History of Korea* p. 166-182
  ● In-class screening: *Welcome to Dongmakgol* (2005) (excerpt)

  **FINAL PAPER PROPOSAL DUE**

**Wk 11 Postwar Reconstruction and Development**

T 11/12: Post-colonial Nation Building
  ● *A History of Korea* p. 183-214

F 11/15: South Korean Industrialization under Park
  ● In-class screening: *Ode to My Father* (2014) (excerpt)

**Week 12 North Korea and the World**

T 11/19: Deepening the Revolution
  ● Charles Armstrong’s *The Koreas* p. 66-84

F 11/22: Monumental Life
  ● *A History of Korea* p. 215-225

**Wk 13: Minjung Resistance and Protest**

T 11/26: Struggle for Democratization
  ● Charles Armstrong’s *The Koreas* p. 38-50
  ● Nak-Chung Paik’s "How to Think About the Park Chung-Hee Era" p. 85-91

F 11/29: *THANKSGIVING RECESS*

  **FINAL REVIEW SHEET**
Wk 14: Contemporary South Korea

T 12/3: South Korea in the Twenty-first Century
- *A History of Korea*, p. 226-245

F 12/6: The Meaning of Korea Today
- Charles Armstrong, "South Korea as a Global Power" p. 50-56, "Tentative Turn Outward" p. 84-88, "One Korea, Many Koreas" p. 167-173

**FINAL PAPER DUE**

Wk 15: Course Wrap-up

T 12/10: K-Pop
- Haeryun Kang, "Sulli and K-Pop's Lolita Hypocrisy"
- Michelle Cho, “3 Ways That BTS and Its Fans Are Redefining Liveness”

**FINAL EXAM**

Between 12/16-12/23, exact date and location TBD