This course surveys the history of Korea from ancient times through the twentieth century. 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.
Major volumes used in the course (all articles and book excerpts from below will be scanned and made available to students on Canvas, except for *A History of Korea* and *The Story of Hong Gildong*):

- *Sources of Korean Tradition*, edited by Hugh Kang, Peter Lee, Ch’oe Yong-ho, W. Theodore de Bary
- *An Anthology of Traditional Korean Literature*, edited by Peter H. Lee
- *The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Korean Poetry*, edited by Peter H. Lee
- *Columbia Anthology of Traditional Korean Poetry*, edited by David McCann
- *Koreas* by Charles Armstrong
- *A History of Korea* by Kyung Moon Hwang (*please purchase*)
- *The Story of Hong Gildong* translated by Minsoo Kang (*please purchase*)

Films (all required visual media will be provided by instructor):

- *The Fortress* (2017), dir. Hwang Tong-hyŏk, 139 min. (watch before class)
- *Chunhyang* (2000), dir. Im Kwon-taek, 133 min. (clips in class)
- *Sweet Dream* (1936), dir. Yang Chu-nam, 48 min. (clips in class)
- *Madame Freedom* (1956), dir. Han Hyŏng-mo, 125 min. (clips in class)

Requirements: Please check Canvas for detailed information about these assignments and requirements.

- Self-introduction (5%)
- Presentations (5%)
- Participation (5%)
- Terms quiz and short response essays #1-3 (10%+20%+20%= 50%)
- Reflective writing #1-3 (5%+5%+5%=15%)
- Final Project (20%)

- Attendance: Mandatory. Up to two absences are allowed. After two absences, each unexcused absence will result in 2-point deduction from your final grade. Latenesses will also be noted. Too many latenesses will also hurt your final grade.

Note on Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the highest level of academic integrity in this class. Violations include cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. For details, please see [http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu](http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu). I will also be glad to discuss with you any concerns or questions you have on this issue.

A special note on plagiarism: Please note that ignorance of the citation practice is not a mitigating circumstance for plagiarism. Anyone who needs assistance in academic writing should contact the writing program ([http://wp.rutgers.edu/tutoring/writingcenters](http://wp.rutgers.edu/tutoring/writingcenters)).

Note on Students with Disabilities
It is the policy of Rutgers to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. If you have a disability and wish to request accommodations to complete your course requirements, please contact the Office of Disability Services and ask to speak with a Coordinator (848-445-6800 or dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu) about accommodations.

Schedule

**primary sources

♩ checkpoints for (self) evaluation

Wk 1 Origins and Foundation Myths

Tues. 1/21 Introduction

● Course overview

♩ Self-introduction: see assignments tab for details Due Wed. 1/22 night, 11:59pm (5% of grade, late enrollees must complete within a week of formally registering for the class).

Fri. 1/24 Rethinking Origins


Wk 2 Three Kingdoms Period and Unified Silla

Tues. 1/28 Buddhism and culture


Presentation: A History of Korea, “Chapter 2: Queen Sondŏk and Silla’s Unification of Korea”

Fri. 1/31 Confucian literati culture I

● “Ch’oe Ch’iwŏn,” p. 71-73, Sources of Korean Tradition

● Introduction to poetry in literary Chinese, p. 130-134, Anthology of Traditional Korean Literature **Ch’oe Ch’iwŏn, On a Rainy Autumn Night, p. 203-205 The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Korean Poetry

● Introduction to Buddhist hagiography, p. 149-151 **Iryŏn on Wonhyo from Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms (Samguk yusa), p. 166-172 Anthology of Traditional Korean Literature.
Presentation: *A History of Korea*, “Chapter 3: The Unified Silla Kingdom”

**Wk 3 Koryŏ**

.midterms quiz and short response essays #1 covering from Wk 1 up to Wk 3. Quiz in class on Tues. 2/4. Short responses due Wed. 2/5, 11:59pm on Canvas. (10% of grade)

Tues. 2/4 Confucian literati culture II

- **Hyangga, Great Master Kyunyo,”Eleven Poems on the Ten Vows of the Universally Worthy Bodhisattva” 23-27. *Columbia Anthology of Traditional Korean Poetry*
- **Poetry in literary Chinese, Yi Kyubo, p. 211-224, *Columbia Anthology of Traditional Korean Poetry***
- Introduction to Koryŏ songs, p. 29-30, *Anthology of Traditional Korean Literature **O Cham,“The Turkish Bakery” p. 39-40, *Columbia Anthology of Traditional Poetry*

Presentation: *A History of Korea*, “Chapter 4: Founding of the Koryŏ Dynasty” & "Chapter 6: The Mongol Overlord Period"

Fri. 2/7 No class

**Wk 4 Early to Mid Chosŏn**

Tues. 2/11 The Neo-Confucian state and the problem of emotion I

- Introduction to "Songs of Flying Dragons,” p. 57-59, *Columbia Anthology of Traditional Poetry***"Songs of Flying Dragons," the poem, p. 60-68, *Columbia Anthology of Traditional Poetry*

Presentation: *A History of Korea*, “Chapter 7 Koryŏ-Chosŏn Transition”

Fri. 2/14 The Neo-Confucian state and the problem of emotion II

- Introduction to sijo, p. 51-54 *An Anthology of Traditional Korean Literature. **Sijo, Chong Mongju, p. 74, Yi Saek, Untitled, p., 73, Yi Hwang, Hwang Chini p. 88-92 *Columbia Anthology of Traditional Poetry*

Presentation: *A History of Korea*, "Chapter 8: Confucianism and the Family in the Early Chosŏn Dynasty”

.mid Reflective writing #1 Due Sunday, 2/16, 11:59pm on Canvas. (5% of grade)
Wk 5 Imjin War and the Manchu Invasion

Tues. 2/18 War of words

- **Record of the Black Dragon Year, An Anthology of Traditional Korean Literature*, p. 331-346

Presentation: *A History of Korea*, "Chapter 9: The Great Invasions, 1592-1636"

Fri. 2/21 No class

- Watch at home: Film, *The Fortress* (2017), Dir. Hwang Tong-hyŏk (runtime 139 min.)

Wk 6 Everyday Life and Popular Culture

Tues. 2/25 Popular fiction


Presentation: *A History of Korea*, “Chapter 10: Ideology, Family, and Nationhood in the Mid-Choson Era"

Fri. 2/28 Popular music


Presentation: *A History of Korea*, "Chapter 12: Popular Culture in the Late Chosŏn Era"

Wk 7 Late Chosŏn and Intellectual Opening

🎵 Terms quiz and short response essays #2 covering from Wk 3 up to Wk 7. Quiz in class on Tues. 3/3. Short responses due Wed. 3/4, 11:59pm on Canvas. (20% of grade)🎵

Tues. 3/3 Female subjectivity in Chosŏn society

- **Memoir, Princess Hyegyŏng (1735-1815), "A Record of Sorrowful Days," An Anthology of Traditional Korean Literature*, p. 189-197.

Presentation: *A History of Korea*, "Chapter 11: Intellectual Opening in the Late Eighteenth Century"

Fri. 3/6 Poetry and philosophy meet.
- **Satire, Chŏng Yagyŏng (1762-1836), An Anthology of Traditional Korean Literature, p. 213-215.

Presentation: A History of Korea, “Chapter 13 Nineteenth-Century Unrest”

Wk 8 End of Chosŏn and Colonization

Tues. 3/10 Philosophy and protest meet.


Presentation: A History of Korea, “Chapter 14: 1894, A Fateful Year"

Fri. 3/13 Ethno-nationalism

- **Sin Ch’aeho, “Introduction to A New Discourse on Reading History,” Sources of Korean Civilization, p. 423-425

Presentation: A History of Korea, “Chapter 15 The Great Korean Empire"

♫ Reflective writing #2 Due Sunday, 3/15, 11:59pm on Canvas. (5% of grade) ♪

Spring Break

Wk 9 Colonial Modernity

Tues. 3/24 Gender and modernity


Fri. 3/27 Culture and militarization


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

Tues. 3/31

- **Short fiction, Kim Yong-sŏk, “Trolley Driver” (1946)**


Fri. 4/3

- **Short fiction, Chŏn Kwangyŏng, “Kapitan Ri” (1962), *Land of Exile* p. 50-73**

Presentation: *A History of Korea*, “Chapter 21 The Korean War"

**Wk 11 Postwar Reconstruction and Development**

Term quiz and short response essays #3 covering from Wk 7 up to Wk 11. Quiz in class on Tues. 4/7. Short responses due Wed. 4/8, 11:59pm on Canvas. (20% of grade)

Tues. 4/7 Developmental state and nationalism

- Research, Tadashi Kimiya, “The Cold War and the Political Economy of the Park Chung Hee Regime,” p. 66-84

Presentation: *A History of Korea*, “Chapter 23: 1960s South Korea”

Fri. 4/10 Literature of resistance


Presentation: *A History of Korea*, “Chapter 26: South Korean Democratization"

**Wk 12 North Korea and the World**

Tues. 4/14 Unending War

Presentation: *A History of Korea*, “Chapter 22, Early North Korea” & Chapter 25: Monumental Life in North Korea

Fri. 4/17 No class

🎵 Reflective writing #3 Due Sunday, 4/19, 11:59pm on Canvas. (5% of grade)🎵

**Wk 13 Contemporary South Korea**

Tues. 4/21 Virtual Korea


Presentation: *A History of Korea*, “Chapter 27: South Korea in the New Millennium”

Fri. 4/24 Culture and spectacle


**Wk 14 Global Korea and K-pop**

Tues. 4/28 Diaspora and inherited trauma

- **Poetry, Emily Yoon, excerpts from Cruelty Special to Our Species* (2018), selections

Presentation: Charles Armstrong, *The Koreas*, p. 89-111

Fri. 5/1 K-pop and bodily control

**YouTube, "Former SM Trainee and Almost SNSD Member Stella Kim talks about Kpop Industry and Trainee Days," September 21, 2016, [https://youtu.be/P3knfN5-QWA](https://youtu.be/P3knfN5-QWA)

♪ Final Project Due TBD (20% of grade) ♪