

01:574:210 Introduction to Korean Culture
from Geomany to G-Dragon

Instructor: Jae Won Edward Chung

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Day and Time: Tuesdays & Fridays 9:50am-11:10am

Location: Scott Hall Room 205

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Fridays, 2-3pm, Scott Hall Room 325



Fig. 8. Yi Yu-t'ae, *Hwaun*, 1944, ink and color on paper, 212 x 153 cm.
Courtesy of the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea.

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 Yǒng-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
- *Premodern Korean Literary Prose*, edited by Michael J. Pettid, Gregory N Evon, and Chan Park
- *Columbia Anthology of Modern 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-hyōk, 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 Hyōng-mo, 125 min. (clips in class)
- *My Sassy Girl* (2001), dir. Kwak Chae-yong, 123 min. (watch before 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>. 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>).

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

- Research, Richard D. McBride II, "What is the Ancient Korean Religion?" *Acta Koreana* 9, no. 2 (July 2006), p. 1-28.
- **Foundation Myths, "Tangun," p. 525-526, "Chumong," Read p. 526-535. *Anthology of Traditional Korean Literature*.

Wk 2 Three Kingdoms Period and Unified Silla

Tues. 1/28 Buddhism and culture

- Research, Mark Zemanek, "The Birth of Korean Buddhist Tradition through Legends of *Samguk yusa*," from Carousel lectures at Seed Olomouc, <http://seed.upol.cz/>, p. 1-8.
- Introduction to Hyangga, p. 13-16, *Anthology of Traditional Korean Literature* ***"Requiem for a Dead Sister," Sinch'ung, p. 18-19; Master Wŏlmyŏng, p. 19; Huimyŏng, "Hymn to the Thousand-Eye Sound Observer," p. 21; Ch'oyŏng, "Song of Ch'oyŏng" p. 23. *Anthology of Traditional Korean Literature*

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

♪ *Terms 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

- Research, Nam Dong-shin, "Buddhism in Medieval Korea," *Korea Journal* (Winter 2003), p. 30-54
- **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

- Research, Hwisang Cho, "Feeling Power in Early Chosŏn Korea: Popular Grievances, Royal Rage, and the Problem of Human Sentiments," *Journal of Korean Studies* 20, no. 1 (Spring 2015), p. 7-32.
- 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

- Research, Jisoo Kim, "From Jealousy to Violence: Marriage, Family, and Confucian Patriarchy in Fifteenth-Century Korea," *Act Koreana* 20, no. 1 (June 2017), p. 91-110.
- **Poetry in literary Chinese, Yi Chehyon, Song Sammun, Song Kan, Kim Sisup, p. 225-231, Lady Sin Saimdang, Hwang Chini 237-238.
- 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"

♪ *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

- Research, JaHyun Kim Haboush, "War of Words," in *The Great East Asian War and the Birth of the Korean Nation*, p. 73-92
- ***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-hyök (runtime 139 min.)

Wk 6 Everyday Life and Popular Culture

Tues. 2/25 Popular fiction

- ***The Story of Hong Gildong*, translated by Minsoo Kang, p. 1-78.

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

Fri. 2/28 Popular music

- **P'ansori, "Song of Ch'unhyang," *Premodern Korean Literary Prose*, p. 275-298.

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

- Research, Nayeon Kim, "Indoctrinating Female Virtue: The Social Use of Chosŏn Woodblock Prints," *Gender, Continuity, and the Shaping of Modernity in the Arts of East Asia, 16th-20th Centuries*, ed. Kristen I. Chiem and Lara C. W. Blanchard, p. 53-76.
- ***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.

- Research, Debernere Torrey, "Separate but Engaged: Human Subjectivity in the Poetry of Tasan Chŏng Yagyŏng," *Journal of Korean Studies* 15, no. 1 (Fall 2010), p. 95-122.
- **Poetry in Chinese, Chŏng Yagyŏng, "Laughing at Myself," *The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Korean Poetry*, p. 258.
- **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.

- Research, Paul L. Beirne and Carl F. Young, "Tonghak/Ch'ŏndogyo," in *Handbook of East Asian New Religious Movements*, ed. Lukas Pokorny and Franz Winter, p. 255-276.
- **Ch'oe Cheu, "On Spreading Virtue" "On Learning Truth," "Song of Urging Study," "On Practicing Truth at Home," *Sources of Korean Tradition*, p. 316-322.

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

Fri. 3/13 Ethno-nationalism

- Research, Michael Robinson, "National Identity and the Thought of Sin Ch'aeho: Sadaejui and Chuch'e in History and Politics," *The Journal of Korean Studies* 5 (1984), p 121-142.
- **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

- Research, Sunghim Kim, "The Personal is Political: The Life and Death and Life of Na Hye-sŏk (1896-1948)" in *Gender, Continuity, and the Shaping of Modernity in the Arts of East Asia, 16th-20th Centuries*, ed. Kristen I. Chiem and Lara C. W. Blanchard, p. 253-284
- **Columns, "Na Hyesŏk: The ideal woman," p. 28-29; "Yi Kwangsu: Ten commandments for New Women," p. 41 in *New Women in Colonial Korea: A Sourcebook*.

Presentation: *A History of Korea*, "Chapter 16: The Japanese Takeover, 1904-1918" & "Chapter 17: The Long 1920s"

Fri. 3/27 Culture and militarization

- Research, E. Taylor Atkins, "The Dual Career of 'Arirang': The Korean Resistance Anthem That Became a Japanese Pop Hit," *The Journal of Asian Studies* 66, no. 3 (August 2007): p. 645-677
- **Poetry, Yun Tongju (1918-1945), *Columbia Anthology of Modern Korean Poetry*, p. 88-95.

Presentation: *A History of Korea*, "Chapter 18: Nation, Culture, and Everyday Life in the Late Colonial Period" & "Chapter 19: Wartime Mobilization, 1938-45"

Wk 10 Liberation, Division, and Korean War

Tues. 3/31

- **Short fiction, Kim Yōng-sōk, "Trolley Driver" (1946)

Presentation: *A History of Korea*, "Chapter 20, The Liberation Period, 1945-50"

Fri. 4/3

- **Short fiction, Chōn Kwangyōng, "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

♪ *Terms 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
- **Park Chung-hee, *The Country, the Revolution, and I* (Seoul: Hollym Corporation Publishers, 1963), p. 19-24, 56-57, 186-187.

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

Fri. 4/10 Literature of resistance

- Research, Youngju Ryu, "On Trial: Kim Chiha's Bandits" in *Writers of the Winter Republic: Literature and Resistance in Park Chung Hee's Korea*, p. 26-26, p. 44-54
- **Poetry, Kim Chiha, "Five Bandits," trans. Brother Anthony of Taizé, p. 94-104

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

Wk 12 North Korea and the World

Tues. 4/14 Unending War

- Research, Suzy Kim, "Specters of War in Pyongyang: The Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum in North Korea," *Cross-Currents: East Asian History and Culture Review*, E-Journal no. 14 (March 2015), p. 124-147.
- **Comics, Cho Pyŏng Kwŏn, "Great General Mighty Wing," Gold Star Children's Press, 1994, trans. Heinz Insu Fenkl. <https://www.wordswithoutborders.org/graphic-lit/from-great-general-mighty-wing>

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

- Film: *My Sassy Girl* (dir. Kwak Chae-yong), 123 min.
- **Short fiction, Pak Min-gyu, "Raccoon World," *Azalea: Journal of Korean Literature & Culture* 1, no. 1 (2007), 193-214

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

Fri. 4/24 Culture and spectacle

- Rachael Miyung Joo, "Nation Love: The Feminized Publics of the Korean World Cup" in *Transnational Sport: Gender, Media, and Global Korea*, p. 168-193

Presentation: Charles Armstrong, *The Koreas*, p. 50-56, 167-173

Wk 14 Global Korea and K-pop

Tues. 4/28 Diaspora and inherited trauma

- **Kang Sang Jung's "Memories of a Zainichi Korean Childhood," *Japanese Studies* 26, no. 3 (December 2006), p. 267-281
- **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

- Online Essay, Haeryun Kang, "Sulli and K-Pop's Lolita Hypocrisy," *Korean Exposé* January 20, 2017 <https://koreaexpose.com/sulli-k-pops-lolita-hypocrisy>
- Online Essay, Michelle Cho, "3 Ways that BTS and Its Fans are Redefining Liveness," *Flow Journal* May 29, 2018, <https://www.flowjournal.org/2018/05/bts-and-its-fans/>

- **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>

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