

Leighanne Yuh
Korea University
Spring 2021

LATE CHOSŌN KOREA 1724 to 1910

Course Description: This course will introduce and familiarize students with the historical events and issues of the late Chosŏn dynasty, and relate these to current political, economic, social, and cultural processes in Korea. During the latter half of the dynasty, Chosŏn experienced a wave of changes that exercised a profound influence at the time of its opening to Western trade in 1876. This course will examine these changes in an attempt to provide historical explanations for the Korean responses to Western-style diplomacy, trade, religion, imperialism, and thought. The course is divided into three areas: political history, the society and economy, and thought and culture. However, due to the integrated nature of East Asian history, the course will incorporate comparisons with China and Japan during the same time period. Monday lectures will focus on Korea, while Wednesday discussions will examine all three countries. Discussions will focus on identifying similarities and differences among China, Korea, and Japan to explain the varying outcomes at the end of the 19th century. No knowledge of Korean history or language is required.

Course Objectives: Students will be expected to identify major historiographical issues, and to hone their oral and written presentation skills through discussion. This course is designed to help students formulate their own opinions, perspectives, and interpretations through the study of Korean and East Asian history. To accomplish this, it is imperative for students to prepare thoroughly for each class by doing the readings and reviewing the lectures, and to think about their answers for discussion. An essential component of forming your opinions is also expressing them in an intelligent manner, either in the written or verbal form.

Course Requirements:

1. Students will be expected to attend class regularly and to participate in classroom discussion. This course requires active participation, and thus students must be prepared to contribute their opinions and answers during class.
2. Students will be required to lead at least two discussions. This includes not just covering the questions posted on Blackboard, but also creating your own discussion topics and provocative questions to stimulate discussion.
3. There will be a midterm and final exam.

Grading:

Final grades will be determined as follows: attendance and participation 20%; midterm 30%; final 40%; discussion leadership 10%.

Textbooks:

Readings will be uploaded to Blackboard.

Leighanne Yuh
Korea University
Spring 2021

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1a: Introduction to Course

Part 1: Political History

Week 1b: The Political System of Chosôn

John B. Duncan, *The Origins of the Chosôn Dynasty*, pp. 225-236.

Week 2a: Mid-Chosôn Invasions and Late Chosôn Foreign Relations

Ki-baik Lee, *A New History of Korea*, pp. 209-217.

Week 2b: Qing China and Tokugawa Japan

George M. Beckmann, *The modernization of China and Japan*, pp. 55-59 63.

John Whitney Hall, *Japan from prehistory to modern times*, pp. 155-159.

Week 3a: Political Instability and the Rise of Factional Politics

Late Chosôn Politics: Impartiality and In-Law Government

James Palais, pp. 1 – 16, 46-50

Week 3b: Developments in the Qing and Tokugawa

George M. Beckmann, *The modernization of China and Japan*, pp. 59-63.

William Rowe, *China's Last Empire*, pp. 43-48.

John Whitney Hall, *Japan from prehistory to modern times*, pp. 160-177.

Week 4a: The Crises of the 1860's and the Opening of Korea

Political Jockeying in Late 19th Century Korea

Peter Duus, pp. 1 – 18

James Palais, pp. 252 - 271

Week 4b: Unequal Treaties, Gunboat Diplomacy, and Western Imperialism in East Asia

The Opium Wars, Commodore Perry

Meiji Restoration

Readings TBD

Week 5a: The Protectorate Treaty

The Annexation Treaty

Kim and Kim, pp. 121 – 135

Week 5b: The Rise of Imperialist Japan

Readings TBD

Leighanne Yuh
Korea University
Spring 2021

Part II: The Society and Economy

- Week 6a: The Development of Yangban Society
Martina Deuchler, *The Confucian Transformation of Korea*, pp. 99-107, 126-128.
- Week 6b: Qing Society and the Tokugawa Social System
William Rowe, *China's Last Empire*, pp. 96-104, 109-114.
Hall, *Cambridge History of Japan*, pp. 121-127.
- Week 7a: Economic Growth, Landed Farmers, and Wealthy Merchants
Socio-Economic Change in the Late Chosôn
Sources of Korean Tradition Volume I, pp. 327-341.
Kyung Moon Hwang, *Beyond Birth*, pp. 17-22.
- Week 7b: The Economy in the Qing and Tokugawa Eras
Hall, *Cambridge History of Japan*, pp. 519, 524-531, 538-547.
William Rowe, *China's Last Empire*, pp. 122-141.
- Week 8: Midterm
- Week 9a: Slaves and Marginalized Groups
Elites and Commoners
Sources of Korean Tradition Volume II, pp. 159-167.
- Week 9b: Tokugawa Society
Qing Family and Kinship
Hall, *Cambridge History of Japan*, pp. 706-714, 749-769.
William Rowe, *China's Last Empire*, pp. 114-121.
- Week 10a: Social Change and Economic Growth in the Enlightenment Era
Kyung Moon Hwang, *Beyond Birth*, pp. 59-81.
- Week10b: Holiday
- Week 11a: Late Chosôn Reform Confucianism and Women
Martina Deuchler, *The Confucian Transformation of Korea*, pp. 142-169.
- Week 11b: Thought and Religion in Qing and Tokugawa
William Rowe, *China's Last Empire*, pp.
Hall, *Cambridge History of Japan*, pp. 373-387, 395-404.
- Week 12a: Late Chosôn Popular Culture
Popular Culture in China and Japan

Leighanne Yuh
Korea University
Spring 2021

The Introduction of Western Civilization
Sources of Korean Tradition Volume II, pp. 181-193.
Cho Kwang, *Christianity in Korea*, pp. 29-37.
Hall, *Cambridge History of Japan*, pp. 749-769.

Week 12b: Holiday

Week 13a: New Education and Enlightenment
Sources of Korean Tradition Volume II, pp. 245-53.

Week 13b: Education in China and Japan
Hall, *Cambridge History of Japan*, pp. 715-725.
Additional reading to be assigned

Week 14a: New and Reform Religious Movements
Benjamin Weems, *Reform, Rebellion, and the Heavenly Way*, pp. 1-13.
Sung Deuk Oak, *Christianity in Korea*, pp. 72-93.

Week 14b: Christianity in Japan and China
Additional reading to be assigned

Week 15a: Final Review

Week 15b: Field Trip