

Leighanne Yuh
Fall 2020
Korea University

INTRODUCTION TO KOREAN AND EAST ASIAN HISTORY

Course Description: A general survey of the historical development of various aspects of Korean civilization, including politics, society and economy, thought and religion, and the arts. Half of the course will cover the main themes in Korean history and their historical interpretations, from prehistoric times to the modern period. It will also pay special attention to social systems, religion and culture, as well as the changing geopolitics of the region. The other half of the course will take a comparative approach by examining contemporaneous China, Japan, and northeast Asia, identifying similarities and differences between the regions. Through this course, students will have a better understanding of the challenges Korea faced in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the historical processes through which Korea, China, and Japan developed.

*Update August 12, 2020: As required by the University, classes will be online consisting of recorded video and Zoom discussions.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to attend lectures regularly and to keep up with reading assignments. Weekly homework will be given on the readings: Students will be required to submit a one page summary of the readings to their Teaching Fellow before class for every time a reading is assigned. There will be a mid-term and a final examination. Students are also expected to lead at least two discussion groups.

Grading: Final grades will be determined as follows: attendance 10%; participation/discussion 20%; homework 10%; midterm 30%; final 30%.

Textbooks:

Charles Holcombe, *A History of East Asia : From the origins of civilization to the twenty-first century* (**Required**)

Charles O. Hucker, *China's Imperial Past*

Peter Lee, *Sources of Korean Tradition*

Ki-baik Lee, *A New History of Korea* (Optional)

Course Outline:

Week 1: Introduction to Course

1. Course Requirements

Part I: Political History

Week 2a: Early History

Leighanne Yuh
Fall 2020
Korea University

1. Old Chosôn
 2. Three Kingdoms
- Reading: Holcombe, Ch.3 (pp.58~70, pp.79~89)

Week 2b: Early China and Japan: TUTORIAL
Reading: Holcombe, Chapter 4

Week 3a: The Koryô Period

1. Later Three Kingdoms
2. Early Koryô
3. Late Koryô

Week 3b: Medieval China and Japan: TUTORIAL
Reading: Holcombe, pp. 126-129 (The Song Dynasty Situation), pp. 135- 145, pp. 148-154

Week 4a: The Chosôn Period

1. Early Chosôn
2. Mid-dynasty Invasions
3. Late Chosôn

Reading: Holcombe, pp. 140-142, 145-147, 152-158

Week 4b: Ming and Qing China, Tokugawa Japan
Reading: Holcombe, pp. 166-187, 194-224

Week 5a: The End of Chosôn/Opening of Korea

1. The Opening
2. The Loss of Independence

Week 5b: Holiday

Week 6a: Colonial Rule

1. The Structure of Colonial Rule
2. Collaboration and Resistance

Week 6b: Early modern China and Japan
Reading: TBD

Week 7a: History from 1945

1. Liberation and Division
2. War
3. South Korea: Autocrats and Soldiers
4. North Korea: Kim Il Sung

Leighanne Yuh
Fall 2020
Korea University

Week 7b: Modern China and Japan: TUTORIAL

Reading: Holcombe, Chapter 8 (pp. 230-253), pp. 277-283, 295-302, 313-319

Week 8: Midterm Exam

Part II: Society and Economy

Week 9a: Social Structure & Marginalized Groups

1. Bone Rank Society of Silla
2. From Local Warlords to Central Aristocrats in Koryô
3. Yangban Society
4. From Landlords to Chaebol in Modern Korea
5. Slaves
6. Mean People
7. Women
8. Regional Discrimination

Week 9b: The Social Structure of China and Japan: TUTORIAL

Reading: Holcombe, pp. 106-109, 130-33; Charles O. Hucker, China's Imperial Past, pp.170-192

Week 10a: The Pre-modern and Modern Economy

1. Agriculture and Trade in Silla and Koryô
2. Agricultural Economy of the Early Chosôn
3. Rise of Commerce in the Late Chosôn
4. Economic Development in the Colonial Era
5. "The Miracle on the Han"
6. Centralized Command Economy in North Korea

Week 10b: Trade and the Economy in China and Japan: TUTORIAL

Reading: Hucker, ch.12; Holcombe pp. 160-66, 169-174, 187-188

Part III: Religion and Culture

Week 11a: Shamanism and Buddhism

1. Earliest Traditions: Totemism and Shamanism
2. Introduction of Buddhism
3. Buddhism at Its Peak in Silla and Koryô
4. Buddhism after 1392

Week 11b: Buddhism and Local Beliefs in China and Japan: TUTORIAL

Reading: Hucker, China's Imperial Past, ch.8; Holcombe pp. 70-79, 100-102

Leighanne Yuh
Fall 2020
Korea University

Week 12a: Confucianism

1. Confucianism in Silla and Koryô
2. Neo-Confucianism and Korean Society
3. Korean Neo-Confucian Philosophers
4. Practical Learning

Week 12b: Confucianism in China and Japan: TUTORIAL

Reading: Holcombe, p. 142-147; Hucker Ch. 13 (p. 356-384)

Week 13a: Christianity in Korea

Week 13b: Christianity in East Asia: TUTORIAL

Reading: Irwin Scheiner, Christian Converts and Social Protest in Meiji Japan, pp.41-48
Edited by Robert E. Buswell & Timothy S. Lee, Christianity in Korea, pp.7-14
Edited by Daniel H. Bays, Christianity in China, pp.8-23

Week 14a: Korean Nationalism

Week 14b: Nationalism in China and Japan: TUTORIAL

Reading: Ernest Gellner, 1983, Nations and Nationalism, pp.53-62

Week 15a: Final Review

Week 15b: Field Trip