2014

349-01 Korea: Past and Present

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HIST 349 KOREA: PAST AND PRESENT  
Fall 2014; T, Th 11:30-12:45  
Hailstones Hall 101

Instructor: Hwisang Cho  
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Office: Schott Hall 509  
Office Hours: T, Th 10:00-11:00 or by appointment

Course Description:  
This course examines major ideas, themes and genres in Korean culture in historical contexts from ancient times to the modern era, focusing on the Chosŏn dynasty (1392–1910) and the twentieth century. We will read history and philosophy secondary materials by Korean and Western scholars, and a diverse selection of primary-sources (in translation). The main questions we will ask are: How do these texts define “civilization” and “culture”? What kinds of familial, social, economic and political relations do these works envision? We will link the texts we analyze by their historical context, noting how representations of people, places and ideas change over time. In works from the Chosŏn dynasty, we will pay particular attention to the complex interplay of popular beliefs, Confucianism and Buddhism, as well as the culture of diglossia. As we move into the twentieth century, we will examine the notions of “tradition” and “modernity” and address the particular ways in which the cultural production of contemporary times reworks the past.

Objectives:  
· Students will learn the parameters of Korean history and culture as a body of knowledge and a major of study.  
· Students will gain a critical perspective on the historical and cultural issues of Korean tradition. This foundation will provide a point of departure for future studies of Korea—individually or in formal classes—in a variety of disciplines.  
· Students will become better readers and writers, through critical engagement with textual documents.  
· Students will become better writers through informal and formal writing assignments.  
· Students will develop communication skills in public presentation and speaking.

Requirements:  
1. Attendance (10 %)  
2. Web-posting and Class Participation (20%)  
   · In-class presentation on the readings assigned for each section  
   · Weekly posting to course blog  
3. Critical Essay through Media review, 5-7 pages (20%) – DUE Nov 4  
   · Analyze any topics on Korea in the form of argument based upon media coverage including newspapers, magazines, films and any other relevant sources.  
4. Mid-term exam (20%) – Oct 16  
   · Essay on secondary and primary literature  
   · Textual identification and analysis
5. Take-home Final (30%) – DUE Dec 16, noon
   · Essay on secondary and primary literature, 3-5 pages, 20%
   · Textual identification and analysis, 10%

Attendance:
In accordance with Xavier University attendance and absence policy, you are expected to attend every class. You must inform the professor of any excused absences. Excused absences include religious holidays and extended, documented (with a doctor’s note) illnesses. You will be granted TWO unexcused absences (fever, stomach bug, sporting event, internship interview, etc) without penalty. Afterward you will be penalized a third of a grade for every absence. Please familiarize yourself with Xavier’s attendance policy: [http://www.xavier.edu/studenthandbook](http://www.xavier.edu/studenthandbook) [Please refer to 1.2.7.]

Participation:
The last 20-30 minutes of each class will be run in seminar-style. Students are required to actively participate in class discussion. You are expected to thoroughly prepare the material for each class, bring your text and reading notes to class, and come prepared to engage in active discussion. Please speak with me if you have difficulties speaking in class.

Weekly posting:
To aid discussion in class each week, by Sunday 5 pm you will submit a brief (circa 250word) response to the assigned readings in the form of an argument on the CANVAS. Do not send a summary of the readings: rather, I am looking for evidence of intellectual engagement with the problems and ideas raised by the PRIMARY TEXTS. The goal is to demonstrate your command of the assigned readings and to provide practice for the longer essay.

Essays & final:
Writing assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class the day that they are due. Students must arrive on time to turn in their papers. Late papers (including those not turned in at the beginning of class) will be marked down a third of a grade per day late. Papers must be typed in 12-point font, and double-spaced with page numbers and footnotes (no parenthetical citations). You must indent paragraphs. (No space between paragraphs). While I recommend you avoid block quotes, if you use them, you must indent the margin and single-space. You will be graded down a third of a grade for not adhering to this format. Please try to consult the Writing Center [Conaton Learning Commons, Room 400; (513) 745-2875] before submitting assignments.

[writingcenter@xavier.edu](mailto:writingcenter@xavier.edu)
[www.xavier.edu/writing_center](http://www.xavier.edu/writing_center)

Academic Honesty:
Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are unacceptable. Familiarize yourself with the Xavier policy on academic honesty: [http://www.xavier.edu/online/Academic-Honesty.cfm](http://www.xavier.edu/online/Academic-Honesty.cfm)

In accordance with Xavier’s policy, offenders will be dismissed from the course with a mark of F, and the case will be reported to the department chair and the dean of students, who may impose other or additional penalties including suspension or expulsion.
Students with Disabilities:
Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should contact the Learning Assistance Center at 513-745-3280 on the Fifth Floor of the Conaton Learning Commons, Room 514, to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Electronic devices:
Personal computers are permitted, but strongly discouraged. You may use computers for note taking and referring to required reading only. Students whose second language is English may use electronic dictionaries. No student may use a mobile phone for talking or texting during class. If you text or surf the web in class, your overall grade will be penalized by one-third.

Contacting the professor:
If you would like to discuss an issue pertaining to the class, Asia and/or history in general, please come to my office hours or make an appointment. I do not check email regularly on weekends, vacations or holidays. Email should be treated as business correspondence and drafted accordingly.

Medical and other issues:
If you have a documented medical condition, or other issue that requires special accommodation in the classroom, please speak with me at the beginning of the semester.

Required Texts:
This course only requires two books, which are available at the Xavier Bookstore.

- JaHyun Kim Haboush and Martina Deuchler eds., *Culture and the State in Late Chosŏn Korea* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Asia Center, 1999).

Optional:
Additional readings are posted on the CANVAS website.

WEEK ONE

8/26 T. Introductions

**From Ancient Times to the Koryŏ (918–1392) Dynasty**

8/28 Th. Foundation Myth and the Three Kingdoms
Read: HK, Chapters 1 and 2.
Translation of foundation myths

WEEK TWO

9/2 T. Koryŏ: Polity and Social Structure
Read: HK, Chapters 3 and 4.
   Translation of King T’aejo’s political writings

9/4 Th. Koryŏ: Religion, Culture and Worldview
Read: HK, Chapters 5 and 6.
   Michael Rogers, “Medieval National Consciousness in Korea: The Impact of Liao and
   Chin in Koryŏ,” in Morris Rossabi, ed., China among Equals: The Middle Kingdom and
   151–172. [EBook]

Chosŏn (1392–1910)

WEEK THREE

9/9 T. Early Chosŏn: Creation of a Confucian State
Read: HK, Chapter 7.
   JaHyun Kim Haboush, “Creating a Society of Civil Culture: Early Chosŏn, 1392–1592,”
   in Soyoung Lee, ed., Art of the Korean Renaissance, 1400–1600 (New York: Metropolitan

9/11 Th. The Invention of the Korean Alphabet: Diglossic Literary Culture
Read: HK, Chapter 8.
   Ross King, “North and South Korea,” in Andrew Simpson, ed., Language and National

WEEK FOUR

9/16 T. Confucianization of Korea
Read: Martina Deuchler, The Confucian Transformation of Korea: A Study of Society and
   JaHyun Kim Haboush, “The Confucianization of Korean Society,” in Gilbert Rozman,
   ed., The East Asian Region: Confucian Heritage and Its Modern Adaptation (Princeton,

9/18 Th. Wars: The Imjin War, 1592–1598, and the Manchu Invasions
Read: HK, Chapters 9 and 10.

WEEK FIVE

9/23 T. Changes in the World Order and Postwar Searches for a New Identity
Read: HK, Chapter 11.

9/25 Th. Film: Masquerade (2012) directed by Choo Chang-min.
WEEK SIX

9/30 T. In-Class Movie and Discussion

10/2 Th. The Religious Plurality of Chosŏn Society
Read: Robert E. Buswell, Jr., “Buddhism under Confucian Domination: The Synthetic Vision of Sŏsan Hyujŏng” (Culture and State in Late Chosŏn Korea).

Boudewijn Walraven, “Popular Religion in a Confucianized Society” (Culture and State in Late Chosŏn Korea).

WEEK SEVEN

10/7 T. Narrating Women’s Experience in the Chosŏn Dynasty
Read: HK, Chapter 12.

10/9 Th. NO CLASS (Fall Holidays)

WEEK EIGHT

10/14 T. Midterm Exam

10/16 Th. INTRODUCTION TO LIBRARY RESEARCH
Guest Lecture: Anne Davies [Resource Sharing and E-Reserves Librarian]

WEEK NINE

10/21 T. Encounter with the West and Domestic Unrest
Read: HK, Chapters 13 and 14.

10/23 Th. The Breakdown of the Sinocentric World Order
Read: HK, Chapters 15 and 16.

The Japanese Colonial Period (1910–1945)

WEEK TEN

10/28 T. Colonial Modernity
Read: HK, Chapters 17 and 18.
10/30 Th. Colonial Imprints
Read: HK, Chapters 19 and 20.

WEEK ELEVEN


FIRST PAPER DUE

National Division and Two Koreas

11/6 Th. Korean War and Its Legacies
Read: HK, Chapter 21.

WEEK TWELVE

11/11 T. South Korea: Authoritarianism and Rapid Economic Development
Read: HK, Chapters 23 and 24.

11/13 Th. Korean Christianity: Past and Present
Read: Don Baker, “A Different Thread: Orthodoxy, Heterodoxy and Catholicism in a Confucian World” (Culture and State in Late Chosŏn Korea).

WEEK THIRTEEN

11/18 T. North Korea: The Search for Autonomy
Read: HK, Chapters 22 and 25.


WEEK FOURTEEN

11/25 T. Internet Culture and New Agencies in South Korea
Read: HK, Chapters 26 and 27.


11/27 Th. **NO CLASS (THANKSGIVING)**

WEEK FIFTEEN

12/2 T. Korea Beyond Korea


WEEK SIXTEEN

12/9 T. The Korean Wave


12/11 Th. Review for the Final Exam

12/16 T. **Take-Home Final Exam due at Noon.**