Course Syllabus

Nineteenth Century Korea

Instructor: John B. Duncan (UCLA)

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10:00-12:00

Course Requirements: Students will be expected to read each week’s assignments and to write a 4-6 page reaction paper. Reaction papers are due by 5 p.m. on the day before class and should be posted on the course website discussion forum. Students will take turns leading classroom discussions. Ph.D. students majoring in Korean history are required to read all materials, including those in the Korean and Japanese languages. M.A. students and students not majoring in Korean history are required to read only English language materials, but are encouraged to read Korean and Japanese language materials if they have the linguistic skills.

Evaluation: Students will be graded on their reaction papers (50%), their participation in classroom discussion (40%), and their leadership of discussion (10%).

Course Description: This is a graduate reading course covering the political, diplomatic, social, economic, intellectual and cultural history of Korea during the crucial years from 1800 to 1910. Topics to be covered include domestic politics and peasant rebellions, Korea’s incorporation into the Western-dominated nation-state system and its annexation by Japan, social and economic change before and after the opening of the ports in 1876, the irruption of Western civilization and the ensuing struggle among radical reformers, moderate reformers, and defenders of the old order, and changes in popular culture before and after the opening of the ports.

Course Outline: (Items marked with * are supplementary readings)

Week One: Introduction to Course & Questions of Historical Periodization


Part One: Politics, Domestic and Diplomatic

Week Two: On the Eve: In-law Government and the Rule of the Taewŏn’gun

Kang Man-gil, Kochy’ŏssŭn Han’guk kŭndaesa (Seoul: Ch’angjak kwa pip’yŏngsa, 2004) 42-50

*Choe, Ching Young, The Rule of the Taewŏn’gun, 1864-1873 (Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 1972)

*Kuksa p’yŏnch’an wiwŏnhoe, Han’guksa v 32 (Kwach’ŏn: Kuksa p’yŏnch’an wiwŏnhoe, 1997) 201-284.

**Week Three: The Opening and Closing of Korea: From Tributary to Independent State to Colony**


**Part Two: Social, Economic, and Intellectual Change**

**Week Four: Society: Tensions, Change and Urbanization**


Week Five: Economic Change

Kang Man-gil, Koch’ýŏssŭn Han’guk kŭndaesa, 302-349.

Totman, Conrad, Pre-industrial Korea and Japan in Environmental Perspective (Leiden: Brill, 2005) 1-9, 142-171.


Week Six: Shifting Intellectual Currents


Week Seven: Westernizing Reforms

Kang Man-gil, Koch’yōssūn Han’guk kūndaesa, 275-301.
*Chandra, Vipan, Imperialism, Resistance, and Reform in Late Nineteenth-Century Korea: Enlightenment and the Independence Club (Berkeley: Institute of East Asia Studies, Univ. of California, 1988).
*Kim Tong’t’ae, “Kungmin suji rŭl t’onghaebon kūndaeha kungmin,” in Ewha yŏdae han’guk munhwa yŏn’guwŏn, ed., Kūndaeha kyemonggi chisik kaenyŏm ŭi suyŏng kwa kŏ pyŏnyong (Seoul: Somyŏng ch’ulp’ŏn, 2004).

Week Eight: The Rise of a New Literate Public
Kang Man-gil, *Koch’yŏssŭn Han’guk kŭndaesa*, 373-383


**Part Four: Resistance From Below**

**Week Nine: 1811 & 1862: Local Elites, Peasants & Rebellion**


**Week Ten: 1862-1910: The Stirrings of Popular Nationalism**

Kang Man-gil, *Koch’yŏssŭn Han’guk kŭndaesa*, 262-274.


