Introduction to Korean Civilization  
EALC 003 (cross-listed as HIST 098)  
--Fall 2018--

This gateway course surveys various sociopolitical orders, their characteristics, and major cultural developments from early times to the present in Korea and the vicinity. Covered topics include: state formation and dissolution; the role of ideology and how it changes; religious beliefs and values; agriculture, commerce, and industry; changing family relations; responses to Western imperialism; and Korea’s place in the modern world as well as future prospects. Students will also be introduced to various interpretive approaches in the historiography. The course fulfills the College’s History & Tradition Sector and Cross Cultural Analysis requirements.

Instructor: Eugene Y. Park  
Williams Hall 642  
University of Pennsylvania

Office hours: Mondays 2–3:30 pm, Tuesdays 10–11:30 am, and by appointment

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11–11:50 am, Graduate School of Education (EDUC) 200

Recitations: Fridays, 11–11:50 am, Williams Hall 218; or  
Fridays, noon–12:50 pm, Williams Hall 214

Teaching Fellow:

Requirements: map quiz (5%)  
in-class midterm examination (30%)  
paper on an assigned topic, 5–7 pages (20%)  
take-home final examination (30%)  
discussion participation (10%)  
attendance (5%)

Extra credit: earned by attending pre-announced Korea-related talks and submitting page-long (single-spaced) response papers.

Required Readings:


Academic journal articles and other readings are required and distributed by the instructor.

Absences, missed exams, and late submissions will be penalized, unless based on medical, family emergency-related, or religious reasons with documentation.

Some holidays are observed by enough students that the university has determined that examinations may not be administered nor may assigned work be required on those dates (paragraph 2, the university’s Policy on Secular and Religious Holidays). For other holidays such as the Lunar (“Chinese”) New Year’s Day, students who notify the instructor in the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to observe them will be permitted to make up any missed work or examinations. These include but are not limited to those listed in paragraph 3 of the policy. The University Chaplain’s letter lists dates for all holidays treated in paragraph 2, as well as many but not all of the other holidays that might fall under paragraph 3.

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated. Cheating, forgery, dishonest conduct, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the university’s educational, research, and social roles. In line with university regulations, course instructor reserves the right to discipline any student found guilty of inappropriate conduct.

All students will be treated equally, and all marks are final, barring any calculation error. Absolutely no re-grading or re-reading, even when requested on the ground that the student wants to know what (s)he could have done better or needs a certain grade to graduate. After the pre-announced class time during which the student can review the graded material, the instructor will collect it in order to minimize the risk of graded course material circulating outside the class. A student absent during the in-class review will have one week to examine the graded material at another time in the instructor’s presence.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

**Week 1 (8/29): Introduction**

**Week 2 (9/5; no class on 9/3): Introduction (Continued)**

Week 3 (9/10, 9/12): Early Times to ca. 300
  - “King Suro,” 14–17.

*Map quiz at the beginning of the class, Wednesday, 9/12.

Week 4 (9/17, 9/19): The Classical Era, ca. 300–ca. 850
- SKT 1:
  - “King Sansang: The Levirate Custom,” 30–32.
  - “Chang Pogo,” 120.

Week 5 (9/24, 9/26): The Early Medieval Period, 850–1170
- SKT 1:
  - “Ch’oe Ch’iwŏn,” 71–72.

Week 6 (10/1, 1/3): The Early Medieval Period, 850–1170 (Continued)

*Midterm examination, Monday, 10/1.

No recitation: fall break (10/4–10/7).

Week 7 (10/8, 10/10): The Late Medieval Period, 1170–1392

• *SKT 1:*
  • “Manjŏk’s Slave Rebellion,” 200.
  • “Resistance to the Mongol Invasion,” 202–203.
  • “The Reforms of King Kongmin and Sin Ton,” 206–208.
  • “Chŏng Tojŏn: Philosophical Rebuttal of Buddhism and Taoism,” 254–256.

**Week 8 (10/15, 10/17): Establishment of the Chosŏn Dynasty, 1392–1637**

• *SKT 1:*
  • “King Sejong: Preface to *Hummin chŏngŭm,*” 295
  • “Ch’oe Malli: Opposition to the Korean Alphabet,” 296.
  • “Discussion on Life and Death, Ghosts and Spirits,” 346–347.

  • “Queen Sohye: Instructions for the Inner Quarters,” 46–49.


**Week 9 (10/22, 10/24): The Late Chosŏn Renovation, 1637–1800**

• *SKT 2:*
  • “Song Siyŏl: Instructions to My Daughter,” 49–52.
  • “An Chŏngbok: A Conversation on Catholicism,” 130–133.

• Park, Eugene Y. *A Family of No Prominence,* “Prologue” and chapters 1 and 2, pp. 1–46.


**Week 10 (10/29, 10/31): Challenges from Within and Without, 1800–1894**

• *SKT 2:*
  • “Yi Hangno: Sinify the Western Barbarians,” 140–142.
  • “A Call to Arms Issued at Paeksan,” 263–264.
  • “Inaugural Message of The Independent,” 279–280.

• Park, Eugene Y. *A Family of No Prominence*, chapter 3, pp. 47–70.

Week 11 (11/5, 11/7): Rise and Fall of Imperial Korea, 1894–1910

- **SKT 2:**

Week 12 (11/12, 11/14): Japanese Occupation, 1910–1945

- **SKT 2:**

*Paper due at the beginning of the class, Monday, 11/12.*

Week 13 (11/19, 11/21): Rival New Regimes, the Korean War, and Postwar Politics, 1945–1988


Week 15 (12/3, 12/5): The Divergence

- Oh, Jennifer S. “Strong State and Strong Civil Society in Contemporary South Korea: Challenges to Democratic Governance.” *Asian Survey* 52, no. 3 (May/June 2012): 528–549.

Week 16 (12/10): The Divergence (Continued)
No recitation.

*Take-home final examination due, 5 pm, Monday, 12/17.