Topics in Korean History:
Social History of Early Modern Korea
EALC 183/583
--Fall 2018--

This course introduces students to English-language scholarship on social history of Korea from the founding of the Chosŏn dynasty (1392–1910) to the mid-nineteenth century. Conducted as a reading seminar, the course will examine status and gender in early modern Korean society by considering, among others, descent, kinship, marriage, education, and economy. A reading list of noteworthy studies is intended to help the students map some critical questions and debates that have shaped the historiography. Everyone must participate actively in discussions, provide oral presentations as a discussion leader, and submit two review essays. No knowledge of Korean language or culture is presumed. This course satisfies Cross Cultural Analysis requirement.

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

Class meetings: Tuesdays 1:30–4:20 pm  
Williams Hall 320

Requirements:  
Attendance (10%)  
Active discussion participation (30%)  
Oral presentations, each 20 minutes long (20%)  
2 review essays, each 5–7 pages long (40%)  
(Graduate students consult with instructor for requirements)

Readings: All academic journal articles will be provided by the instructor. Every book used in its entirety are available for purchase at Penn Bookstore. Some are also available as e-books through Van Pelt Library website.

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

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 are 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.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (8/29): Introduction

Week 2 (9/5): Overview

Week 3 (9/12): Origins of Chosŏn Sociopolitical Institutions

Week 4 (9/19): Confucianization of Korea

Week 5 (9/26): Civil Examination (Munkwa) and Status

Week 6 (10/3): Military Examination (Mukwa) and Status
Week 7 (10/10): Descent Groups and Genealogies (*Chokpo*)

Week 8 (10/17): The Local Elite

*Review essay 1 due at 5 pm on Friday, October 20, 2017

Week 9 (10/24): Late Chosŏn Social Stratification and Mobility

Week 10 (10/31): The Late Chosŏn *Chungin* and Commoners

Week 11 (11/7): The State and the Local in the Nineteenth Century
- Kim, Sun Joo. “Negotiating Cultural Identities in Conflict: A Reading of the Writings of


**Week 12 (11/14): Gender in the Early and Mid-Chosŏn Periods**


**Week 13 (11/21): Gender in the Mid- and Late Chosŏn Periods**


**Week 14 (11/28): Assessment I**


**Week 15 (12/5): Assessment II**


*Review essay 2 due at 5 pm on Friday, December 8, 2017*