



## IWS3015 Visiting Korean History

Prof. Yejin Kim, Sungkyunkwan University

### SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION

---

The objective of this course is to foster a foundational understanding of Korean history. Given the vastness of Korea's 5000-year history, fully comprehending it in 3 weeks is a challenge. Therefore, our focus will be on key issues that continue to influence Korean culture and the way Koreans perceive their society and the world.

During the first half of the term, we will delve into significant events and issues of the Joseon Dynasty. Topics will include the rise of the Joseon Dynasty, the creation of the Korean script Hangeul, the spread of Confucian culture, the impact of two wars, and the flourishing of Joseon culture and technology, and the eventual fall of the Dynasty. In the latter half of the term, we will shift our attention to modern times, discussing topics like Japanese colonization, liberation, division, the process of democratization, and the developments in economics and culture.

Our exploration of these issues will occur in two ways. Firstly, through pre-recorded/live lectures, we will discuss the nature, historical implications, and significance of each topic. We'll also examine the extent to which each issue has shaped Korean society. This approach will help students grasp the political, social, economic, and cultural development of Korea, as well as how these experiences have influenced Koreans' perspectives on society, the world, and their value system.

The second approach involves the students' indirect experience of Korean heritage and culture. Students will be encouraged to watch films, TV programmes, documentaries, or conduct research on specific topics. These experiences will be shared in our real-time streaming classes, fostering active student involvement through presentations, discussions, and assignments. By integrating these experiences with the lectures, students will gain a deeper understanding of the historical artifacts and how Koreans' historical experiences find expression in Korean cultural products. Furthermore, this will allow them to recognize the connections between these expressions and the value system and worldview of Koreans.

### READING MATERIALS

---

[Chapters from diverse coursebooks on Korean history will be posted on i-Campus well in advance of each class.]

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

---

**[Attendance: 20%, Mid-term Assignment: 30%, Final Exam: 40%, and Participation: 10%.]**

Students are required to watch the pre-recorded lectures before the specified deadline. Also, students should attend the real-time streaming classes on time.

**According to school regulations, accumulating four unauthorized absences will result in a failing grade.**

Mid-term exam will be replaced with an assignment and **plagiarism will not be tolerated.**

This class operates on a pass/fail system, and students must achieve a grade of 60 or above to pass.

Practice quizzes will be given after every class and 80% of final exam questions will be drawn from the quizzes.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE (live lecture schedule is subject to change)**

---

### **– WEEK I –**

#### 1. 2024-01-03 (WED): Live

From Gojoseon to Goryeo: A brief introduction to the ancient history of Korea

#### 2. 2024-01-04 (THU): Live

The Rise of a New Dynasty, Joseon

- 1) Creation of Hangeul
- 2) King Sejong

#### 3. 2024-01-05 (FRI): Recorded

The Spread of Confucian Culture

- 1) Appearance of Sarim
- 2) Literati Purge

### **– WEEK II –**

#### 4. 2024-01-08 (MON): Recorded

The Two Wars that Changed Joseon Society

- 1) The Imjin War
- 2) The Byeongja War

#### 5. 2024-01-09 (TUE): Recorded

The Reformation Policies in the Late Joseon Period

- 1) King Yeongjo
- 2) King Jeongjo
- 3) Policy of Tangpyeong

#### 6. 2024-01-10 (WED): Live

The Rise of New Knowledge: Development of Practical Learning

- 1) Introduction of knowledge from the outside world

#### 7. 2024-01-11 (THU): Live

Joseon at the Crossroads: Opening ports? Or Isolation?

#### 8. 2024-01-12 (FRI): Live

Imperialists' Invasion

- 1) The Daehan Empire
- 2) Independence Club & Patriotic Enlightenment Movement

– WEEK III –

9. 2024-01-15 (MON): Recorded

Joseon, the Colony of Japan 1

- 1) Independence Movement
- 2) Provisional Government of Korea

10. 2024-01-16 (TUE): Recorded

Joseon, the Colony of Japan 2

- 1) Nationalistic Movements
- 2) National Mobilization

11. 2024-01-17 (WED): Recorded

Modernization in the Colonial Period & Liberation

- 1) Colonial Modernity
- 2) Division in 1948
- 3) The Korean War

12. 2024-01-18 (THU): Live

Dictatorship and Revolutions

- 1) Rhee Syngman
- 2) Park Chung-hee
- 3) Chun Doo-hwan

13. 2024-01-19 (FRI): Live

Development of Economy and Democracy & Two Koreas

- 1) Development of Economy
- 2) Development of Democracy
- 3) South Korea vs North Korea

– WEEK IV–

14. 2024-01-22 (MON): Live

Development of Culture & Hallyu (Korean Wave)

15. 2024-01-23 (TUE): Live (at 10:30 am)

Final Exam