INTRODUCTION TO KOREAN CIVILIZATION
History 098 (cross-listed as EALC 080)
--Spring 2015--

This gateway course surveys the history of Korea from early times to the present. We will study the establishment of various sociopolitical orders and their characteristics alongside major cultural developments. 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 increasing presence in the modern world as well as its future prospects. Students will also be introduced to various interpretive approaches in the historiography. No prior knowledge of Korea or Korean language is presumed.

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Office hours: TBA

Lectures: TBA

Requirements: Class Attendance and Participation (10%)
Summary of the Readings (20%)
Book Review (10%)
Midterm examination (30%)
Final examination (30%)

Extra credit: Earned by attending a pre-announced Korea-related talk and submitting a page-long (single-spaced) write-up analyzing it

Readings:


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: Introduction

Week 2: Origins of Korean Civilization and the Period of the Three Kingdoms


Week 3 (1/26, 1/28): Silla and Parhae, 676 to 935


**Week 4 (2/2, 2/4): Koryŏ - The Early Medieval Period, 935-1170**


**Week 5: Koryŏ - The Late Medieval Period, 1170–1392**


**Week 6: Establishment of the Chosŏn Dynasty, 1392–1637**


**Week 7: Chosŏn Society (and Midterm Exam)**


**Week 8: Late Chosŏn: Early 18th century to 1876**


**Week 9: Korea in the Age of Imperialism: 1876–1910**


**Week 10: The Japanese Colonial Rule, 1910–1945**


Week 11: Rival New Regimes and the Korean War, 1945-53


Week 12: North Korea


Week 13: South Korea - From Poverty to Prosperity


Week 14: South Korea – Creating a Democratic Society


Week 15: Contemporary Korea


**Final Exam: TBA.**