

History 2611E

Survey of Korean History

2023-24

Instructor: **Dr. Carl Young**

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This is a **draft** syllabus. Please see the course site on OWL for a final version.

Course Description

Korea has a long and rich history. Located at the crossroads of Northeast Asia, it has often been at the centre of developments in the region, often as a prize of larger powers. Korea also has a long tradition of autonomy, however, and developed a unique culture and political structure that gave it a distinct identity and allowed it to make distinguished contributions to the East Asian cultural sphere.

This course aims to provide an overview of Korean history from the beginnings to the present. It will present developments in the political, cultural, social, and philosophical spheres and assess the impacts of these processes on the peninsula. Korea's strategic position at the centre of the Northeast Asia region will also be investigated, as well as its role as mediator and battleground for its more powerful neighbours and the impact that this has had on the international system in East Asia.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Provide accurate information about the processes, people, and events behind the development of the different states on the Korean peninsula from prehistoric times to the present
- Describe the importance and role of the Korean peninsula in the international system in East Asia
- Analyze primary sources and reveal what they show about the events, people, values, and society they come from
- Synthesise primary and secondary sources to produce a research paper

Course Materials

Required Texts

Michael J. Seth, *A Concise History of Korea: From Antiquity to the Present* (3rd edition), (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2020)

Peter H. Lee & Wm. Theodore de Bary, eds., *Sources of Korean Tradition, Volume I* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1996)

Yŏngho Ch'oe, Peter H. Lee, & Wm. Theodore de Bary, eds., *Sources of Korean Tradition, Volume II* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000)

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History (10th Edition)* (Bedford Books, 2020)

Methods of Evaluation

1 Term Paper (around 10 pages)	20%
3 Source Document Assignments (10% each; 4-6 pages)	30%
Mid-term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Quizzes	<u>10%</u>
	100%

The term paper will be a research paper on topics of your choice in the history of Korea. Suggested topics will be handed out early in the beginning of the second semester. The suggested length of the paper will be approximately 10-15 pages. The paper will be due on **March 20**.

There will be two exams in the course, one in the December exam period covering topics from the first semester and the other in the April exam period covering topics from the second semester. The exams will be made up of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling. Please see https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

The source document assignments will be based on documents from the two volumes of *Sources of Korean Tradition*. Questions based on the documents will be handed out in class and students will choose **one** question and write a 4-6 page analysis of the documents relating to the question. The first source document assignment on themes from the prehistoric period to the end of the Koryŏ period will be due on **Oct. 18**. The second source document assignment on themes from the early and mid-Chosŏn periods will be due on **Nov. 15**. The third source document assignment on themes from the late Chosŏn and modern periods will be due on **Feb. 28**.

There are four scheduled quizzes throughout the course. These will be composed of around 15-20 multiple-choice questions each and will be held in the first 10 minutes of class for which they are scheduled. Quiz 1 is scheduled for **Oct. 11**, Quiz 2 for **Nov. 22**, Quiz 3 for **Feb. 14**, and Quiz 4 for **March 27**.

If you should have any questions pertaining to the structure or content of the course, please do not hesitate to contact me during my office hours, or by phone or e-mail to make an appointment.

Lateness and Absence Policy

The source document assignments and the term paper will be accepted late. However, there will be a penalty of 2% a day that will be applied for every day the assignments are late, including weekends and holidays. It is expected that quizzes and exams will be written on the day they are held.

For assignments worth more than 10% of the mark, in case of family emergency, medical, or compassionate grounds, penalties can be removed from assignments or exams can be rescheduled by undergoing the processes laid out by your home faculty's Academic Counseling office. Please refer to the following links for more information:

- Social Science Academic Counselling on [Absence & Academic Consideration](#)
- University policies on [Academic Consideration for Medical Illness](#)
- Department of History [Undergraduate Policies and Statements](#)

For accommodation for work worth less than 10% of the mark, please contact the instructor for an appointment.

If you do hand in your assignment late, please hand it in to the wooden drop-off box outside the History Department office at Lawson Hall. The staff will pick up the assignment and stamp it with a date and time and put it in my mailbox. This provides greater security and clarity for the handing in of the assignment. Please avoid shoving the paper under my office door if at all possible, because it could get lost.

Course Schedule and Readings

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History 2611E –September 2023-April 2024

Seth: Michael J. Seth, *A Concise History of Korea* (3rd edition)

SKT 1: Sources of Korean Tradition, Volume I

SKT 2: Sources of Korean Tradition, Volume II

Sept. 13—Introduction

Sept. 20 & 27—Prehistoric Korea and the Three Kingdoms of Koguryŏ, Paekche, and Silla

Seth, p. 1-49; *SKT 1*, p. 3-17, 57-61

Oct. 4—Unified Silla and Parhae

Seth, p. 51-78; *SKT 1*, 54-56, 65-66, 109-116

Oct. 11 & 18—Koryŏ: Aristocratic Society, Military Government, and Mongol Rule

Seth, p. 79-129; *SKT 1*, p. 151-156, 190-196, 199-208

******Quiz #1—Oct. 11******

******1st Source Document Assignment due—Oct. 18******

Oct. 25, Nov. 8 & Nov. 15—Morning Calm: Early and mid-Chosŏn and the Rise of Neo-Confucianism in Korea

Seth, p. 131-199; *SKT 1*, p. 271-276, 294-299, 306-310, 311-326; *SKT 2*, p. 12-23, 30-33, 46-52, 141-173

Fall Study Break—Oct. 30-Nov. 5—No class

******2nd Source Document due—Nov. 15******

Nov. 22 & 29—Chosŏn in the 18th and early 19th Centuries

Seth, p. 201-241; *SKT 2*, p. 52-60, 99-116, 124-142, 173-180

******Quiz 2—Nov. 22******

Dec. 6-- Under Pressure: The Opening of Korea and Foreign Pressures in the 1870's and 1880's

Seth, p. 243-260; *SKT 2*, p. 216-244, 245-260

Dec. 9-Jan. 7—Mid-term Examination period and Winter holidays—No class

******Mid-term Exam during December examination period******

Jan. 10 & 17—The Tonghak Rebellion and the Last Days of Independence, 1894-1910

Seth, p. 260-283; *SKT 2*, p. 261-267, 272-314

Jan. 24, 31 and Feb. 7—Korea as Japanese Colony, 1910-1945

Seth, p. 285-326; *SKT 2*, p. 331-346, 315-322, 346-349, 352-365

******Quiz #3—Feb. 14******

Feb. 14---Liberation and Division

Seth, p. 327-346; *SKT 2*, p. 350-351, 365-366, 382-393

Feb. 19-25—Winter Reading Week—No class

Feb. 28—The Korean War

Seth, p. 346-361

*****3rd Source Document Assignment due—Feb. 28*****

March 6-- Post-War North Korea to 1993

Seth, p. 361-397; SKT 2, p. 419-425

March 13 and 20—South Korea, 1953-1997

Seth, p. 399-465; SKT 2, p. 393-400, 439-445

*****Term Paper due—March 20*****

March 27 and April 3—The Korean Peninsula since the 1990's and Prospects for the 21st Century

Seth, p.467-543; SKT 2, p. 445-451

*****Quiz 4—March 27*****

*****Final Exam during April examination period*****

Additional Statements

Communication policies: E-mail is generally the easiest way to contact me for short questions. I will endeavour to answer within the day, although there may be delays on weekends and holidays in particular. You can also ask short questions during the class lecture breaks. For longer enquiries, please drop by during my office hours at my office. If you are unable to come to my normal office hours, please contact me to set up an alternative appointment, either in person or through Zoom. For general class announcements, I use the “Announcements” feature on OWL, so please check frequently on OWL to keep track of latest class developments.

Use of electronic devices: No electronic devices will be allowed for quizzes or examinations. A paper English-second language dictionary will be permitted for the mid-term and final examinations. These dictionaries will be inspected when signing in to the examination.

Use of generative AI tools: All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not make use of generative AI tools like ChatGPT for any assignments in this course.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.

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