

Modern History of Korea

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Course Description:

The objective of this course is to provide a general understanding on the Korean Culture and Society of today. This course is designed to introduce students to key aspects of contemporary Korean civilization. Special attention will be given to political, diplomatic, economic, social and cultural issues that have shaped the contemporary Korean system since Choson Dynasty to the present. Achieving this goal, this course will provide the historical development of Korea to understand the cultural heritage of Korea and emphasize the development from 19th century to early 21st century.

Recommended Textbooks:

Lee Ki-baik. *A New History of Korea*

Nahm, Andrew C.. *Introduction to Korean History and Culture*

Requirement:

- Article Reviews

Evaluation:

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|------------------|----------------|
| Mid-term Exam: | 30% |
| Final Exam: | 30% |
| Article Reviews: | 30% (15% each) |
| Attendance: | 10% |

Class Outline

Week 1:

- Orientation: Course Description and Requirements
- Brief History of Korea

Week 2:

- Brief History of Korea(Continue)

Week 3:

- Creation of Choson
- Neo Confucian Tradition of Choson

Week 4:

- Peak of Choson – Era of King Sejong the Great
- Decline of Choson
- Foreign Invasions and their Impacts

Week 5:

- Intellectual Reform
- Government Reform – King Yongjo and Chongjo

Week 6:

- 18th ~ 19th Century Choson – Stagnation and rise of folk Culture
- Western Intrusion and New Religions

Week 7:

- King Kojong - Taewongun's Reform and Foreign Affairs
- Opening of Korea

Week 8:

- Mid-term Exam

Week 9:

- Internationalization of Korea
- From Sino-Japanese War to Russo-Japanese War

Week 10: (due date for 1st Review)

- Japanese Annexation and Colonial Rule

Week 11:

- Liberation and the Creation of 2 Koreas

Week 12:

- Korean War

Week 13:

- 1960s ~1970s Korea

Week 14: (due date for Article Reviews)

- 1980s~1990s

Week 15:

- Korea Today

Week 16:

- Final Exam