

35149

History of Korean Tradition and Folk Culture

Summer 2022

Course descriptions:

In this course, students will learn basic structures and fabrics of Korean tradition and culture. Also, they will be introduced to fundamental concepts, terms, and methods of Korean philosophy and religion. Students can develop their knowledge and skills to understand Korean daily life and mentality by reading the classics of Confucianism, Buddhism, and other thoughts. Also, the class will explore how the ethnic identity of Koreans took its early forms from the seventeenth century through the fields of Koreanology and nativism.

Course format: in-person class

In-person class policies:

- 1) Students must wear a facial mask all throughout the class. They cannot attend a class without a facial cover.
- 2) Body temperature may get checked before the class begins.

Course objectives:

This course is designed to improve the knowledge and literacy of students about East Asian traditional thoughts, culture, and religions. Students have to write two short papers and also participate in two group presentations.

Evaluation: no curve system

Attendance & participation (20%), two short papers (40%), group presentations (40%)

Textbooks available at Ewha U. Library:

Sang-ho Ro, *Neo-Confucianism and Science in Korea* (London: Routledge, 2021).

Primary source readings:

*The Analects: Confucius*; translated with an introduction and notes by Raymond Dawson, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

*The Heart Sutra*

*Dao De jing: the book of the way*, translation and commentary by Moss Roberts, Oakland: University of California Press, 2019.

Daily schedule:

30 June (Thursday):

1. Orientation
2. Basic Concepts in Confucianism

4 July (Monday)

3. Human Nature in Confucianism
4. The Reading of the *Analects*

Reading:

Peimin Ni, *Understanding the Analects of Confucius: a new translation of Lunyu with annotations* (Albany: State University of New York, 2017), excerpts.

5 July (Tuesday)

5. Neo-Confucianism
6. The Reading of the *Analects*

Reading:

Peter K. Bol, *Neo-Confucianism in History* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2008), pp.78-114.

6 July (Wednesday)

7. The Critics of Neo-Confucianism
8. The Reading of the *Analects*

Reading:

Benjamin Elman, *From Philosophy to Philology: Intellectual and Social Aspects of Change in Late Imperial China* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1984), excerpts.

7 July (Thursday)

9. Exploring Neo-Confucianism in Korea
10. The Reading of the *Analects*

Reading:

Sang-ho Ro, *Neo-Confucianism and Science in Korea* (London: Routledge, 2021), chapter 1.

**\*\* The first paper is due at the midnight of 7 July \*\***

11 July (Monday)

11. Basic Concepts in Buddhism
12. Group activities

12 July (Tuesday)

13. No class
14. Group presentations

13 July (Wednesday)

15. Inter-cession break
16. Inter-cession break

14 July (Thursday)

17. East Asian Buddhism
18. The Reading of the *Heart Sutra*

Reading:

Paul Williams, "Mainstream Buddhism: the Basic Thought of the Buddha", in *Buddhist Thought*, pp.41-95.

18 July (Monday)

19. Meditation Buddhism
20. The Reading of the *Heart Sutra*

Reading:

Robert Buswell Jr. *Chinul: selected works* (Paju: Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, 2012), excerpts.

19 July (Tuesday)

21. Basic Concepts in Daoism
22. The development of the Way

Reading:

Catherine Despeux and Livia Kohn, *Women in Daoism* (Cambridge: Three Pines Press, 2003).

20 July (Wednesday)

23. Inner Alchemy
24. The Reading of *Dao De Jing*

Reading:

Sang-ho Ro, *Neo-Confucianism and Science in Korea* (London: Routledge), chapter 5.

21 July (Thursday)

25. Korean nativism and empiricism
26. The Reading of several excerpts from Korean texts

Reading:

Keum Jang-tae, *Confucianism and Korean thoughts* (Seoul: Jimoondang, 2000), excerpts.

**\*\* The second paper is due at the midnight of 21 July. \*\***

25 July (Monday)

27. The school of Koreanology
28. Group activities

26 July (Tuesday)

29. No class
30. Group presentations