

## Women's History of Korean

Instructor: Michael J. Pettid  
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Ewha Womans University

### **Description**

This course will examine the actual lives of Korean women in premodern times through an examination of their daily lives, customs, and cultural practices. By approaching women's lives as such, students will gain an understanding of how their lives might have changed in various periods of Korean history. Additionally, we will be able to see the contributions that women made to Korea's history and how their roles transformed within the family and larger society over time.

### **Methodology and Student Responsibilities**

Where possible, this course will utilize a seminar format and encourage student participation and discussion over a strict lecture model. Thus, students will be required to complete assigned readings before class and be prepared to share their ideas, insights and questions with the class. All readings will be in English, so fluency in Korean is not necessary. The class will also attempt to bring some aspects of history to life, and as such we will schedule trips to museums and historic sites when possible.

### **Student Evaluation**

Attendance and participation 50%  
Final examination 50%

### **Reading Materials**

All readings will be available in electronic files.

### **Field Trips (during class time—may change)**

Ch'angdök Palace

Seoul Museum of History

Södaemun Prison

## Museum of Royal Court Culture

### **Week 1**

#### 1. Introduction

Ancient Korea: Early states, foundation mythology and the lives of women

Readings: Foundation myths

#### 2. Women in the Three Kingdoms Period

Readings: *Samguk yusa* [Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms], 57-61; 90-91; 109-112

#### 3. Shamanism, Buddhism and women in ancient Korea

Readings: *Samguk yusa* [Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms], 188-193; 207-224

#### 4. Women in Koryŏ

Readings: Various (*Koryŏ kayo*)

### **Week 2**

#### 1. Confucianism and Women

Readings: Various from *The Analects* and *Family Rites*

#### 2. Women and Confucianism in Chosŏn

Readings: Si Nae Park, "The Record of My Hardships"

#### 3. Women in Politics

Readings: Kil Cha and Michael J. Pettid, *Diary of the Kyech'uk Year*

#### 4. Women at Home and at Play in Chosŏn

Readings: Various (*yadam*)

### **Week 3**

### 1. Education and Women

Readings: Michael J. Pettid, "Confucian Educational Works for Upper Status Women," in *Women and Confucianism in Chosŏn Korea*, 49-70.

### 2. Literary Accounts of Women

Readings: various

### 3. Slavery and Women

Readings: Milan Hejtmanek, "Devalued Bodies, Revalued Status: Confucianism and the Plight of Female Slaves in Late Chosŏn," in *Women and Confucianism in Chosŏn Korea*, 137-150.

### 4. *Pari kongju* and Women's Lives in Late Chosŏn

Readings: Michael J. Pettid, "Late Chosŏn Society as Reflected in a Shamanistic Narrative," *Korean Studies*, 113-141.

## **Week 4**

### 1. Women's Economic Activities in Chosŏn

Readings: Michael J. Pettid, "Working Women in Chosŏn Korea," *Journal of Global Initiatives*, 24-44.

### 2. Poems and Views of Women

Readings: various

### 3. Women and Sexual Relations

Readings: Various *yadam*

### 4. Final Examination