

**EAST 213: Introduction to East Asian Culture: Korea**  
Class Meetings: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1:35 pm to 2:25 pm  
Location: Leacock Building 26

Instructor: Kimberly Chung (kimberly.chung2@mcgill.ca)  
Office location: 688 Sherbrooke, Room 274  
Office hours: Thursdays 10am-12pm *online by appointment*

Teaching Assistant: Nam Cho  
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Teaching Assistant: Kelly Chan  
Office location: TBA  
Office hour: TBA

Course Objectives

This course on Korea will introduce students to important research methods in cultural studies and critical conversations in the study of early modern to contemporary Korea. Through the study of primary sources—films, narratives, visual and print culture, art—and the examination of secondary sources, students will learn about key topics in the development of modernity in Korea from roughly the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present.

Though the course is presented as a survey course on Korea, this course will not be a comprehensive cultural history of Korea. The course will be organized around destabilizing the concept of Korea as a fixed and homogeneous idea. One important thread will be the critique of understanding Korea in a singular narrative of progress: as “hermit kingdom” to “economic miracle” and, finally, “global power.” A focus of this class will be on the ruptures, marginal representations, narratives and histories left out of the singular narrative of modernity.

The lectures will give particular emphasis on sociopolitical contexts, and students are encouraged to deepen their understanding of Korea through the close readings of primary cultural material.

Methodology

This course will be in lecture format, but students are required to participate actively in class discussions. Active participation requires completing all assigned readings before coming to class and being prepared to contribute to class discussion.

Reading assignments are due on the date that they appear on the course schedule. The lectures will assume familiarity with the readings, and all quiz and take-home exam questions will be drawn from *both* lectures and readings.

No previous knowledge of Korean is required. All media will be shown with English subtitles.

## Readings and Course Texts

The following texts are available on the mcgill.ca/library site as ebooks:

1. Michael E. Robinson *Korea's Twentieth Century Odyssey* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2007).

## Evaluation:

Attendance: 10%

*\*Attendance will be taken via sign-in sheet during 8 randomly selected class sessions*

In- class Quiz #1 25%

In- class Quiz #2 25%

Take-home exam 40%

*\*Missed in-class exams cannot be made up unless you notify the instructor in advance and reach mutual agreement on an equitable assignment. For Covid-19 related missed in-class exams, students must follow McGill health guidelines: <https://www.mcgill.ca/coronavirus/health-guidelines>. Instructor will accommodate accordingly.*

## Course Policies:

### **Attendance:**

Students are permitted 3 absences without penalty. Absences in excess of 3 will affect the student's attendance mark. Please do not contact the instructor to explain absences, except in the event of sustained and extenuating circumstances. For Covid-19 related absences, please refer below.

### **COVID-19:**

In the case of COVID-19, please follow McGill health guidelines:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/coronavirus/health-guidelines>. Professor Chung will work with the Office of the Dean of Students to accommodate the situation accordingly.

### **Academic Honesty:**

*McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information).*

*L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest)).*

### **Disability Accommodation:**

Students who require disability accommodations should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at McGill, to discuss the ways that OSD Student Services may provide assistance: <http://www.mcgill.ca/osd/>. The OSD will then contact Professor Chung to discuss disability accommodations.

*\* In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.  
Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).*

*\*\*In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.*

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