

## **EAST 213: Introduction to East Asian Cultures: Korea**

### **General Information**

Term and Year: Fall 2024

Course pre-requisite(s): None

Course Schedule: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:35-3:55 pm

Number of Credits: 3

### **Instructor Information**

Name and Title: Kimberly Chung, Assistant Professor

Email: kimberly.chung2@mcgill.ca

Office location: 680 Sherbrooke, Room 274

Office hours: Tuesdays 2:35 pm-3:35 pm; Wednesday 10:00 am to 11:00 am

### **Teaching Assistants**

Name: Lingsheng He

Email: lingsheng.he@mail.mcgill.ca

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Name: Emma Wang

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Office Hours: by appointment, please email TA to schedule

### **Communication Plan**

Please email the teaching assistants with any logistical or technical issues regarding mycourses. Please email the instructor with any course content related questions. Responses may take up to 48 hours during the week, exclusive of weekends. Please do not email the instructor or TAs to let us know that you will be absent from class. The attendance policy will be upheld and emails regarding absences will not receive a response.

### **Course Overview**

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

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course:

- 1) students will be able to describe the connections between cultural production and their sociopolitical contexts at key historical moments from roughly the 19th century to 21st century Korea.
- 2) students will have gained preliminary skills in analyzing cultural primary sources and be able to explain how culture supports or doesn't support existing historical narratives.
- 3) students will be able to synthesize scholarship and primary sources to explain how evidence gathered supports an argument.

### **Required Course Materials**

All readings are available on mycourses and the following text is available on the mcgill.ca/library site as an ebook:

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

Students are encouraged 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. Lectures will assume familiarity with the readings.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory and is taken eight times over the course of the semester. Students are permitted 3 absences (out of the 8 attendance checks) without penalty. Absences in excess of 3 will affect the student's attendance mark (2% reduction of total grade), except in extenuating circumstances where documentation is provided.

### **Assessment**

In- class Quiz #1 (Oct. 7)	25%
In- class Quiz #2 (Nov. 20)	25%
Final Take-home exam (Dec. 11)	50%

#### **In-class Quiz #1 and #2**

The 45-minute quiz consists of 6 multiple choice questions, one short answer question, and one long answer question. All quiz questions will be drawn from *both* lectures and readings. Grading Rubric for short and long answers is provided and posted on mycourses under "Content".

#### **Final Take-home Exam**

The Take-home Exam will be released on the last day of class: December 4th. It consists of two long answer questions that should be answered in around 800-900 words each. The purpose of the take-home exam is to 1) demonstrate that you understood and read the course materials 2) consolidate and evaluate what you learned in the class. The answers must be in essay format and all references must be limited to texts, screenings, and lectures provided in class. The exam is submitted online on mycourses in the folder "assignments" on December 11th.

### **Late Assignment Policy**

No extensions will be given for assignments. Late assignments are subject to a penalty of 3% per day, including weekends. Exceptions are only made in exceptional circumstances and students should contact the instructor *in well advance of the due date* with appropriate documentation (ie. medical note).

### **Language of Assignment Submission**

"In accord with McGill University's [Charter of Students' Rights](#), students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives." (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009)

« 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. » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 21 janvier 2009)

### **Reread Requests**

Requests for re-read of quizzes or exams must be made within 10 working days after the graded assignment has been made available to the student. Requests should be made according to the "Reread Policy of the Department of East Asian Studies" available on mycourses under "Content."

### **Academic Integrity**

*"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))."*

### **Statement on the Use of Generative AI Tools**

If you choose to use generative AI tools as a learning aid on any of the EAST213 assignments in any way, it is expected that the AI generative tool be properly referenced

and accompanied with a description outlining why the AI writing tool was used/for what purpose, and how it enhanced your assignment. Failure to include a proper reference and description will be considered a breach of academic integrity. If you have any questions about the use of generative AI tools, please reach out to your instructor for clarification.

**\*\*In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of McGill University, assessment tasks in a course are subject to change, provided students are sent adequate and timely communications regarding the change\*\***

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