

KREN 1011: INTRODUCTION TO KOREAN CIVILIZATION

3 credits / Fall 2017 / MWF 3:00-3:50pm, HUMN 135



This course surveys the histories and cultures of Korea from ancient times to the present with an emphasis on the Chosŏn Dynasty (1392-1910) and the twentieth century. The subject matter of the course is the distinctive evolution of Korean civilization within the East Asian cultural sphere and beyond, from its myths of origin through its struggles to survive amidst powerful neighbors, down to the twentieth-century challenges of colonial domination, war and division, authoritarian development, and global capitalism. While dealing with the broad scope of Korea in the historical context, we will move chronologically through major historical, political, and social moments that inform contemporary Korean identity, and arrive at the particulars of North and South Korean societies today. Incorporating films, literatures, and original sources in English translation, we will examine not only Korea's past but also how Korea's past shapes Korea as it is now and as it might evolve in the future.

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