

SYLLABUS

(Understanding Korean Religions)

School	Sogang University (Seoul, Korea)
Title	Understanding Korean Religions
Program	Sogang International Summer Program
Instructor	Kim, Dongkyu (corshaman@gmail.com)

I. Course Description and Objectives

Korea has one of the most diverse and dynamic religious cultures of any nation in the world today. Koreans are highly religious, yet it is characteristic that no single religious tradition enjoys dominance. This course will introduce students to the historical and contemporary study of religions in Korea. In particular, students will be given information about religious traditions in Korea within a broader context of world religions, such as shamanism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Christianity, and new religions that have developed since the late nineteenth century. In addition, an issue of how religious traditions in Korean peninsula have interacted with each other forming 'Koreanness' or 'a sacred landscape' will be provided. Based upon this information, students are expected to understand how religious values, ideas and practices have been integrated into the modern contemporary Korean culture.

II. Grading

Attendance and Participation	: 10%
Midterm Exam	: 35%
Final Exam	: 35%
Presentation (Individual or Group)	: 20%

Course Requirements:

1. Regular attendance
2. Active class participation
3. Presentation
4. Midterm and Final exams: For both exams, a study guide will be provided in advance

III. Course Schedule

Time	Topic	Readings (all reading materials will be provided by the instructor)
7/1	No Class	
7/2(Tue)	Introduction	<p>* Lecture and Discussion</p> <p>* Readings:</p> <p>Keel Hee Sung, "Outline of Religion in Korea" in Korean Conference on Religion and Peace, ed. <i>Religion in Korea</i>, 8-23 (Seoul: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2003).</p> <p>Kim, Chongsuh, "The Concept of 'Korean Religion' and Religious Studies in Korea (<i>JKR</i> 2010).</p> <p>Walraven, Boudewijn, "Religion as moving target" (<i>JKR</i>, 2011).</p>
7/3(Wed)	Shamanism	<p>* Lecture and Discussion</p> <p>* Readings:</p> <p>Don Baker, <i>Korean Spirituality</i>, ch.2</p> <p>Kim, Dongkyu, "Looping Effects between Images and Realities: Understanding the Plurality of Korean Shamanism," (Ph.D. Diss., UBC, 2012) Ch. 2, Ch. 3</p>
7/4(Thur)	Shamanism	<p>* Watching Movie "Manshin", 만신, Ten Thousand Spirits) and Discussion</p>
7/8(Mon)	Buddhism: Historical Overview	<p>* Lecture and Discussion</p> <p>* Readings :</p> <p>Don Baker, <i>Korean Spirituality</i>, pp. 30-57,</p> <p>Robert Buswell, Jr. "Thinking about 'Korean Buddhism': A Continental Perspective," (<i>JKR</i> vol 1 no 1, 2010)</p>
7/9(Tue)	Buddhism: Images and Realities	<p>* Watching Movie, Dalma ya Nolja. 달마야 놀자(Dharma, Let's Play!) and Discussion</p> <p>* Readings:</p> <p>Park, Pori, "Devotionalism Reclaimed: Re-mapping Sacred Geography in Contemporary Korean Buddhism," (<i>JKR</i> vol 3 no 2, 2012)</p>
7/10(Wed)	Shamanism and Buddhism, in practice	Field trip to Shamanism Museum & Inwang Mt., Seoul

7/11(Thur)	Mid-Term	
7/15(Mon)	Confucianism: Historical Overview	<p>* Lecture and Discussion</p> <p>* Readings :</p> <p>Don Baker, <i>Korean Spirituality</i>, pp. 58-77.</p> <p>“An Chongbok - A Conversation on Catholicism; Yi Hangno - The Christian God is not the Confucian God”, in <i>Sourcebook of Korean Civilization Vol II</i>, ed., Peter H. Lee (Columbia University Press, 1996).</p> <p>Tomasz Sleziak, “The Role of Confucianism in Contemporary South Korean Society,” (http://cejsh.icm.edu.pl/cejsh/element/bwmeta1.element.hd1110893401/c/No_1_2013.27-46.pdf)</p> <p>Haboush, Jahyun Kim, “The Confucianization of Korean Society,” in Gilbert Rozman, ed., <i>The East Asian Region: Confucian Heritage and Its Modern Adaptation</i> (Princeton University, 1991).</p>
7/16(Tue)	Confucianism: Ritual and Society	<p>* Lecture and Discussion</p> <p>* Readings :</p> <p>Roger L. Janelli & Dawnhee Yim Janelli, <i>Ancestor Worship and Korean Society</i> (Stanford University Press, 1982), ch. 3, 4, 5.</p>
7/17(Wed)	Christianity: Encounters and Conflicts	<p>* Lecture and Discussion</p> <p>* Readings :</p> <p>Don Baker, <i>Korean Spirituality</i>, pp.58-77.</p> <p>Chapters in Don Baker and Franklin Rausch, <i>Catholic and Anti-Catholicism in Choson Korea</i> (Univ. of Hawaii Press, 2017)</p>
7/18(Thur)	Christianity: Protestantism	<p>* Lecture and Discussion</p> <p>* Readings :</p> <p>Lee, Timothy S., <i>Born Again: Evangelicalism in Korea</i> (Univ. of Hawaii Press, 2000), Introduction and Ch. 1.</p> <p>Keel Hee-Sung, "Can Korean Protestantism be Reconciled with Culture?"</p> <p>Lee Jin-Gu, "Korean Protestantism as Viewed by Netizens"</p>
7/22(Mon)	New Religions and Islam:	<p>* Lecture and Discussion</p> <p>* Readings :</p> <p>Baker, Ch. 5 The New Religions of Korea</p>

	Historical Overview	<p>Ch'oe Cheu, "On Spreading Virtue," in <i>Sources of Korean Tradition</i>, vol. 2 (Columbia Univ. Press, 2000), pp. 230-231</p> <p>Kirsten Bell, "Cheondogyo and the Donghak Revolution The (un)Making of a Religion," <i>Korea Journal</i> 2004.</p> <p>Park Kwangsoo, "New Korean Religious Movements," <i>Religion & Peace</i> 13 (Winter Special 2011): 15-31.</p> <p>Kim Chong-ui, "Islam," in Korean Conference on Religion and Peace, ed. <i>Religion in Korea</i>, 155-159 (Seoul: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2003).</p>
7/23(Tue)	New Religions: Ritual and Practice	Experiencing the Mind Practice of Won-Buddhism
7/24(Wed)	Religions in North Korea	<p>* Lecture and Discussion</p> <p>* Readings :</p> <p>Baker, Appendix: North Korea and Juche</p> <p>Baker, "The Paradox of Korean Secularity"</p> <p>Hyang Jin Jung, "Jucheism as an Apotheosis of the Family: The Case of the Arirang Festival," (<i>JKR</i> vol 4 no 2, 2012)</p>
7/25	Final	