EAST 208: Historiography of Korea  
MWF 11:00-11:50, PETE 232  
Instructor: Christopher Lovins  
Office Hours: MW 10:00-10:50, R 11:00-11:50, PETE 315  
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Course Overview
EAST 208 is a look at historiography, that is, the history of history. Specifically, it examines the history of Korean history. Beginning with the larger questions of what an historical source is, how to evaluate sources, limitations of historical knowledge, and the meaning of the discipline of history, we will look at the traditional view of history on the Korean peninsula, Marxism in modern Korean historiography, and the differing views of history in North and South Korea. Special attention will be given to Japanese colonial historiography, Korean responses to it, and how both shaped the formation of modern Koreans’ national identity.

Course Objectives
- Learn what historiography is and why it is important to understanding history.
- Learn how views of Korean history have changed over time.
- Distinguish views of Korean history within Korea itself from those in North America and Europe and consider why differences exist between them.
- Learn to be critical and skeptical. Evaluate claims presented to you according to the evidence supporting them. Question even those things you already know.

Evaluation
There are three means of evaluation for this course: short weekly response papers, class discussions, and a historiography paper. All written assignments must be submitted in order to receive a passing grade.

Response papers (30%). Every Monday, each student uploads to Blackboard a 1-2 page response paper addressing any aspect of the readings for the week, so that everyone will have a chance to read them before the discussions on Wednesday and Friday. Each student should read the papers of four or five other students, changing each week. (Don’t read the same five people every week.) A response paper is not a summary. We are all doing the readings; we don’t need to read them again in your response. What I want to see is you engaging with the material and giving it some thought.

Discussion (35%). Monday sessions are lectures. Wednesday and Friday sessions are devoted to discussion of the lecture material and the readings. Only half of the class will meet each of those days, in order both to make the discussion group smaller and to allow time for the extra reading involved. You may use your response paper to help you bring out points, but don’t just regurgitate what’s in your or another student’s response paper. Again, I want to see that you’ve mulled the material over and put some thought into it. Simply saying “I thought this was interesting” or “I agree with Author X” isn’t going to get you very far.

Research Paper (35%). A hard copy is due in class on December 5th. There is a three-day grace period extending to 3:30 pm on Monday, December 8th. After that date, papers will not be accepted for any reason short of prolonged hospitalization. Each student must
meet with me to discuss a topic by September 30th and give me a working bibliography and outline before the Fall Recess. (You are encouraged, but not required, to consult with me in person about the outline instead of emailing it.) Missing either of these deadlines will result in a step reduction on the paper’s final grade for each deadline missed. (For example, if you do not meet with me to choose a topic, your B+ paper would be downgraded to B. If you then did not submit an outline either, it would be downgraded to B-.) You may change your topic, but it must be in consultation with me. I reserve the right to refuse to accept a paper on a topic that we have not discussed.

Because this is a historiography course, the paper must be historiographical, making it a little different from a typical history paper. If you’re the kind of person who likes to start early, you may want to read some of the historiographical articles we’re scheduled to read later in the course to get an idea of how such papers are written. The paper should be 8-10 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12-pt font, 1-inch margins on all sides. This format is to ensure consistency and fairness in evaluation, and any deviation will be penalized. That includes submitting a paper longer than 10 pages, as part of the assignment is to deal with your chosen topic within the specified length. The page count includes only the main text without title pages, reference pages (both of which are required), figures, or supplementary material. Eight pages means 8 full pages, not 7 pages with 2 lines on the 8th page. All sources must be academic books or journal articles; no websites or encyclopedias will be accepted. The only exception to this requirement is academic content provided on accepted sites such as the Korea Journal’s site, JSTOR, or Project Muse. If you are unsure whether a source you are considering is acceptable, ask me. All material from sources must be properly cited, not just direct quotations. Citations must be footnotes or endnotes; parenthetical citations are not acceptable. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated and will, at the least, earn a mark of 0 for the paper (almost certainly leading to failure of the course).

**Honor Code:** All written work submitted for this course should include, at the end, the student’s handwritten signature (where possible) affirming the following statement:

“I have adhered to the Honor Code in this assignment.”

**Accommodations for Students With Disabilities:**
Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with recognized disabilities. Per the College’s policies, students with who need accommodations must contact the Office of Disability Services in a timely fashion (i.e., early). Your instructor is not permitted to make accommodation without permission from the Office of Disability Services.

**Required Text**
There is one text required for this course, *Historical Evidence and Argument* by David Henige, and a small course pack. Additional Blackboard readings for each week are listed on the schedule.
LECTURE AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Weeks 2-4: History, Historiography, and Evidence
- September 8, 10, 12: Henige, 1-90
*September 11 Last day to withdraw without a “W”.

- September 15, 17, 19: Henige, 91-185


Weeks 5-7: Traditional Historiography in East Asia

**September 30: Last day to secure a topic for research paper**


**October 17: Last day to submit outline/bibliography for research paper.**

Week 8: Fall Recess—NO CLASS

Weeks 9-11: Colonial Historiography and Its Refutation: Women in History?

November 4: Last day to drop with a “W”.


Weeks 12-14: Post-Colonialism?


November 26 and 28 ***NO CLASS*** (Thanksgiving Break)


Week 15: Review
- December 8: Review
- December 10 ***NO CLASS***