



## Treasures of Korea: Heritage and Sustainability

- Professor Jamie Jungmin Yoo 류정민 (jamieyoo@yonsei.ac.kr)
- Time & Location: Tue 10-11:50 am & Thu 9-9:50 am / realtime online lecture (Zoom)

### Course Descriptions

This course explores a cultural history of Korea through tangible and intangible heritages. Heritage is the material and spiritual culture that we have inherited from our ancestors. As a window to understand the history, culture, and people's lives of Korea, we will examine national treasures, historical artifacts, particularly preserved at Yonsei, and heritage entries registered with UNESCO. Special emphasis will be placed on the interplay between performance and tangible texts, trans-national interactions with neighboring states, and the construction of the cultural identity of Korea. Lectures will be both topical and chronological and are designed to emphasize and expand upon texts, themes or issues, which are deemed important in the study of Korean culture.

Based on critical thinking, class discussions, and field research, students are expected to participate in their collaborative projects. Topics for final group presentations will include, but not limited to, (1) sustainability of heritage and cultural value, (2) designation of world heritage and the issue of equality, (3) conflict and reconciliation of historical interpretation, or (4) public diplomacy and Korean culture from global/comparative perspectives.

Guest lecturers from various fields will be invited to share their expert knowledge and on-site experiences. To enhance digital capabilities and virtual literacy of the students, this course will also provide various educational opportunities as well as financial support, including lab sessions and field trip assistance, upon students' request. No prerequisite is required. All readings are in English.

<p>* This course is supported by the Institute for Higher Education Innovation of Yonsei University 연세대학교 고등교육혁신원 &amp; the University Innovation Program by Ministry of Education 대학혁신지원사업</p>
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### Course Requirements

- Midterm exam: 20%
- Final Prospectus & Presentation: 25%
- Final Exam: 20%
- Quiz and Discussion Participation: 20%
- Attendance: 15%

## **Team Project & Final Presentation**

Each group chooses one of the treasures in Korea and conducts a research, focusing on its material feature, historical cultural meaning, modern reception, and the group's own interpretation. \*Prospectus of final project, including title, sources, motivation and tentative conclusion, will be expected to present right after the mid-term period.

## **Proposed Schedule**

### **Week 1 Course Introduction & Timeline: Cultural History of Korea**

- 9/1 Course introduction and timeline
- 9/3 World heritage & the issue of "sustainability"

## **PART 1. INVENTED PAST & NATIONAL IDENTITY**

### **Week 2 Hunminjeongeum 훈민정음 (1)**

- 9/8 Creation of Korean alphabets and historical turns
- 9/10 [Discussion] Linguistic purism & Hangeul controversy: why does it matter?

### **Week 3 Tripitaka Koreana 고려대장경 (2)**

- 9/15 War and the act of carving the woodblocks
- 9/17 [Discussion] Printing revolution? : social function of print technology

### **Week 4 Jikji 직지 (3)**

- 9/22 World's oldest extant book printed with movable metal type
- 9/24 [Discussion] Repatriation of displaced heritages and restorative justice

### **Week 5 Sustainability and the World Heritage**

9/29 **Special Lecture\* Ms. Dahee Son**

Programme Specialist

Division of Culture, Korean National Commission for UNESCO



- 10/1 Thanksgiving: no class \* Make-up written assignment due\*

## PART 2. ORALITY, LITERACY & INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

### Week 6 Pansori 판소리 (4)

- 10/6 Musical storytelling from traditional Korea
- 10/8 [Discussion] Modern Pansori and the invention of tradition

### Week 7 Orality and Literacy: Tension and Negotiation



10/13 **Special Lecture\* Dr. Jocelyn Clark**  
Professor at Pai Chai University  
Ph.D. in East Asian Languages and Civilizations,  
Harvard University

- 10/15 [Discussion] world BEFORE the invention of writing systems

### Week 8

- 10/20 Mid-term: take-home exam due\*
- 10/22 Prospectus for group presentation due\*

### Week 9

- 10/27 [Discussion] your final prospectus
- 10/29 **Making and sharing Kimchi 김장 (5)**

### Week 10

- 11/3 **Media Literacy Lab Session (1) \* Dr. Michael Hurt**  
Professor at Korea National University of Arts  
Ph.D. in Comparative Ethnic Studies, UC Berkeley

- 11/5 **Korean Wrestling 씨름 (6)**

### Week11

- 11/10 **Media Literacy Lab Session (2) \* Dr. Michael Hurt**
- 11/12 **Culture of Jeju Women Divers 제주 해녀 (7)**



## PART 3. SUSTAINABILITY OF CULTURAL VALUE

### Week 12      **Human Rights Documentary Heritage 1980 인권기록유산 (8)**

- 11/17      May 18th Democratic Uprising against Military Regime in Gwangju
- 11/19      [Discussion] Memory of the world register

### Week 13      **UNESCO and the World Politics**



11/24      **Special Lecture\* Ms. Jihon Kim**

Attaché, Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to UNESCO

- 11/26      [discussion] sustainability of the world heritage

### Week 14      **Yonsei and Living History**

- 12/1      **Yun Dong-ju 윤동주 (9)**
- 12/3      [discussion] The issue of colonial modernity

### Week 15

- 12/8      Review session
- 12/10      Final take-home exam due\*

### Week 16

- 12/15      Final: Group presentations\*