University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Introduction to the History of Korea, PG_00205711		
Field of study	Japanese Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	2	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	3	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit			
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	mgr Marek Skurski	
	Teachers	mgr Marek Skurski	

Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						

Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30	2.0	18.0	50

Subject objectives	The aim of this course is to familiarize students with the fundamentals of Korean history—from ancient times to the present—and to enable them to relate this knowledge to a broader understanding of the East Asian region. Designed as an introductory course focusing on selected issues from various historical periods, it is intended for students specializing in East Asian studies, particularly those with a focus on China or Japan. Consequently, the topics covered will be examined in relation to the history of China, Japan, and the region as a whole.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[JAPL3_U10] Student can argue substantively using the views of other authors and to formulate conclusions.	Possesses the ability to present substantive arguments regarding fundamental issues in Korean history—drawing on the views of scholars in the field—and to formulate independent conclusions based on this analysis.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written [SU5] implementation of a problem task
[JAPL3_W01] Student is familiar with the terminology of the humanities such as cultural and religious studies, linguistics and literary studies, as well as history, cultural anthropology, philosophy and art sciences relevant to the Japanese studies major.	Possesses an advanced knowledge and understanding of the methodology, theory, and terminology of history as applied to the history of Korea across various eras and in the contemporary period.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[JAPL3_K01] Student is aware of the scope of his professional knowledge and skills and understands the need for further continuous development in professional skills, as well as personal and social competence.	Is aware of the scope of knowledge and skills regarding the history of Korea, understand how to further expand this knowledge and these skills, and recognize the need for personal and academic development.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK4] test/exam - oral or written
[JAPL3_U19] Student can work in a group, taking on different roles in it.	Is able to work in a group to carry out tasks involving the analysis of social, political, and cultural issues related to the history of Korea.	[SU5] implementation of a problem task

Subject contents

The course content covers the following topics: the prehistory of the Korean Peninsula, the origins of Korean civilization, the first states on the Korean Peninsula, China's cultural influence on Korea, Korea's relations with neighboring countries, culture and religion on the Korean Peninsula, modernization, colonization, the restoration of independence and the civil war, the origins of the division into North and South, and the contemporary situation.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
Work in class	0.0%	30.0%
Test	51.0%	70.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	* Hastings, Max, *Wojna koreańska: Wielki konflikt*, Wydawnictwo Literackie: Kraków 2024. * Jacoby, Marcin, *Korea Południowa: Republika żywiołów*, Wydawnictwo MUZA: Warszawa 2024. * Rurarz, Joanna, *Historia Korei*, Wydawnictwo Akademickie Dialog: Warszawa 2009.
Supplementary literature	* Clark, Donald, *Culture and Customs of Korea*, Greenwood: Westport, CT 2000. * Cumings, Bruce, *Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History*, W.W. Norton & Company, New York 2005. * McBridge, Richard II, *The Three Kingdoms of Korea: Lost Civilizations* , Reaktion Books: London 2024.
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed

In what ways did Korean civilization distinguish itself from other East Asian civilizations?
What was the relationship between the process of modernization and the formation of a modern national identity in Korea?
Why did the Korean Peninsula split into two antagonistic states?

Work placement

Not applicable

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