



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER

1
MARCH

Wednesday
2:30-4:00
Zoom

2023 THE INSTITUTE FOR KOREAN STUDIES PRESENTS:

"KOREAN WRITING SYSTEMS UNTIL THE 15TH CENTURY"

CHUNGSOOK KIM

Professor of Korean Language and Literature, Korea University

Before the invention of *Hunminjeongeum* in 1443, several different scripts were used on the Korean peninsula, including *Gogyeol*, *Hyangchal*, *Idu*, and Chinese characters. The existing writing systems based on Chinese characters could not properly represent the unique sounds and grammar of the Korean language. Chinese characters (or *Hanja*) were ideograms (meaning-based), and the structures of Korean and Chinese were very different. It was difficult for commoners to learn the *Hanja* writing system, making it only accessible to a small group of intellectuals and aristocrats. Recognizing the need for a new writing system that would be accessible to everyone, King Sejong invented a phonetic alphabet, *Hunminjeongeum*, and illustrated its underlying principles. *Hunminjeongeum* is regarded as a scientific and systematic writing system because the letters were designed based on the position and shape of the mouth and tongue when producing each sound. In this presentation, I will introduce various scripts used on the Korean peninsula before the creation of *Hunminjeongeum* and discuss the principles under which *Hunminjeongeum* was created.



**Free and open to the public, this
target language lecture will be
delivered in Korean**

<https://easc.osu.edu/events/iks-target-language-lecture-chungsook-kim-korean-writing-systems-until-15th-century>

**This event is sponsored by a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant to
The Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center**