

Syllabus (2025-Summer)

Course Title	Cinema, Culture, and History	Course No.	11343
Credit	3 credits	Hours	45 Hours
Class Time Classroom	Mon to Thr 13:00-15:30 Classroom TBA		
Instructor	Name: Jayoung Min	Department: GLEO	
	E-mail: jayoung.min@ewha.ac.kr	Phone	
Office Hours Office Location	TBA		

I. Course Overview

1. Course Description: World Cinema and Postcolonialism: The Undead in Asian Film

This course explores the figure of the zombie and the undead in global cinema, with a special focus on Asian film and postcolonial theory. From fast-moving infected to slow, spectral zombies, these films reflect social anxieties about globalization, modernity, historical trauma, and systemic collapse. By analyzing films across Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and the West, students will consider how the undead represents more than horror—serving as metaphors for the unresolved past and the failures of the present.

2. Prerequisites

N/A

3. Course Format

Lecture	Discussion/Presentation	Experiment/Practicum	Field Study	Other
50%	30%	%	%	20%

4. Course Objectives

- Understand the zombie genre as a vehicle for postcolonial and political allegory.
- Analyze visual and narrative strategies in global undead cinema.
- Compare regional cinematic approaches to trauma, contagion, and resistance.
- Engage critically with postcolonial theory through film analysis.

5. Evaluation Systems

☐ Relative evaluation ☒ Absolute evaluation (for Ewha International Summer College students only) ☐ Others

Midterm Exam	Final Exam	Quizzes	Presentation	Projects	Assignments	Participation	Others
30%	30%	%	20%	%	%	%	20%

II. Course Materials and Additional Readings

1. Required Materials

All the required readings will be available as pdf files through the Cybercampus

2. Supplementary Materials

The Oxford History of World Cinema, ed. Geoffrey Nowell-Smith (London: Oxford University Press, 1997)

David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson, Film History: An Introduction, 3rd edition (London: McGraw-Hill, 2010)

3. Optional Additional Readings

III. Course Schedule

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 1	(6/30)	<p>Introduction: Cultural History of Zombies</p> <p>Jung, Sun, "Digital Youth and Dystopia in Korean Zombie Films"</p> <p>Clips from #Alive (2020, Korea)</p>
Day 2	(7/1)	<p>Theorizing the Undead—Postcolonialism Meets Horror</p> <p>Film Clips: White Zombie (1932), Get Out (2017)</p> <p>Franz Fanon, "The Wretched of the Earth; Achille Mbembe, "Necropolitics"; Homi Bhabha "Of Mimicry and Man"</p>
Day 3	(7/2)	<p>The Beginning of an End</p> <p><i>Night of the Living Dead</i> (1968, USA)</p>
Day 4	(7/3)	<p>Fast Zombies and Viral Anxiety</p> <p>Kyle William Bishop, "Dead Man Still Walking: Explaining the Zombie Renaissance" Deborah Christie, "A Dead New World: Richard Matheson and the Modern Zombie"</p> <p><i>28 Days Later</i> (2002, UK)</p>

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 5	(7/7)	Colonial Memory and National Crisis Kyung Hyun Kim, "Post-Trauma South Korean Cinema"; Jinhee Choi, "The South Korean Zombie: Train to Busan and the Politics of the Precarious" <i>Train to Busan</i> (2016, South Korea)
		Hauntings of Empire in the Joseon Era Chua Beng Huat, "Structure of Feeling in Korean Historical Dramas"; Jiwon Ahn, "Periodizing the Zombie: Kingdom and the Specter of Colonialism" <i>Kingdom</i> Season 1, Episodes 1–3 (2019, South Korea)
Day 6	(7/8)	
Day 7	(7/9)	Student Presentations
Day 8	(7/10)	Midterm Exam
Day 9	(7/14)	Extreme Contagion and Urban Chaos Eugenie Brinkema, "Affect and Violence in Extreme Horror"; Sheng-mei Ma, "Asian Bodies in Horror Cinema" <i>The Sadness</i> (2021, Taiwan)
Day 10	(7/15)	Metafiction and Zombie Cinema as Creative Process Linda Hutcheon, "A Poetics of Postmodernism" (excerpts); Mitsuyo Wada-Marciano, "De-Westernizing Japanese Cinema" <i>One Cut of the Dead</i> (2017, Japan)
		Global Capitalism and the Mobile Horde David Harvey, "Spaces of Global Capitalism" (excerpts); Nayanika Mathur, "Anthropology and the Zombie" <i>World War Z</i> (2013, USA/Global)
Day 11	(7/16)	
Day 12	(7/17)	The Undead in Asian Film Ella Shohat & Robert Stam, "Unthinking Eurocentrism"
Day 13	(7/21)	Discussions: Global Capitalism, Isolation, Social Media, and Pandemic Anxiety, Homelessness & Marginality, History and Nostalgia

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 14	(7/22)	Final Exam
Day 15	(7/23)	Student Presentations
Makeup Classes 1	(mm/dd)	
Makeup Classes 2	(mm/dd)	

IV. Special Accommodations

* According to the University regulation section #57-3, students with disabilities can request for special accommodations related to attendance, lectures, assignments, or tests by contacting the course professor at the beginning of semester. Based on the nature of the students' request, students can receive support for such accommodations from the course professor or from the Support Center for Students with Disabilities (SCSD). Please refer to the below examples of the types of support available in the lectures, assignments, and evaluations.

Lecture	Assignments	Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Visual impairment: braille, enlarged reading materials . Hearing impairment: note-taking assistant . Physical impairment : access to classroom, note-taking assistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra days for submission, alternative assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Visual impairment: braille examination paper, examination with voice support, longer examination hours, note-taking assistant . Hearing impairment: written examination instead of oral examination . Physical impairment: longer examination hours, note-taking assistant

- Actual support may vary depending on the course.

* The contents of this syllabus are not final—they may be updated.