

Syllabus (2025-Summer)

Course Title	Gender Relations in Korea	Course No.	3
Credit	3 credits	Hours	45 Hours
Class Time Classroom	Mon to Thr 09:00~11:30 Classroom TBA		
Instructor	Name Haelim Cho	Department Graduate School of International Studies	
	E-mail haelim.cho@ewha.ac.kr	Phone (82)10-4784-6211	
Office Hours Office Location	14:00~16:00 International Education Building 1104		

I. Course Overview

1. Course Description

This is an introductory course into the evolution of South Korea's gender relations through the lens of development studies. Rather than focusing solely on feminist theory or women's studies, this course looks at how economic growth, industrialization, urbanization, and policy changes have transformed gender roles and expectations in Korea over time. This class will introduce contemporary and historical gender relations of Korea and also include women's policies and programs. Students will have a chance to learn about basic gender concepts, how gender relations have evolved in the historical path of Korea and how various women's policies and law have affected the real lives of women and men in South Korea. By critically reviewing successful as well as not so effective policies and programs in Korea students will gain insights into their respective societies. The course includes women's policies and programs from various sectors, gender relations in the realm of economic, education, employment, reproductive health and population, political, GBV and gender mainstreaming. The class will also discuss the recent gender debates and issues.

Throughout the course, we will explore gender relations as part of broader societal transformations in Korea, with attention to how both men and women have navigated these shifts. The focus is on understanding the structural factors—such as labor markets, government policies, and social institutions—that shape gender relations in a rapidly developing society. All genders are welcome in this class, provided they have an open mind regarding gender issues.

Readings will be assigned to specific topics which is strongly recommended to be completed prior to the lecture. There will be group discussions, in-class activities and presentations on the student's own country cases. We also plan to watch documentaries/movies, conduct case analysis and visit one or two gender institutions to learn of real cases of gender policy and programs of Korea.

2. Prerequisites

None

3. Course Format

Lecture	Discussion/Presentation	Experiment/Practicum	Field Study	Other
40%	30%	%	10%	20%

4. Course Objectives

- To learn about historical and contemporary gender relations in Korea and understand how gender relations have evolved in the Korean society
- To learn about basic gender related concepts and global trends, development projects
- To learn about women's civil society engagement in advancing women's rights and laws and policy/programs for women
- To discuss the nature and reason behind the recent gender conflict in Korea
- To critically review one's own country's gender issues

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
%	%	%	40%	40%	%	10%	10%

II. Course Materials and Additional Readings

1. Required Materials

All readings will be shared on Cyber Campus

2. Supplementary Materials

3. Optional Additional Readings

III. Course Schedule

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 1	(6/30)	Introduction to the course Introduction to basic concepts and terminology of gender
Day 2	(7/1)	Korean women in the past, present and future: culture and heritage (Please prepare paper and pen or colored pens) Required readings: Chang, Pilwha. Korean Mothers, Daughters and Wives http://www.dcollection.net/handler/ewha/000000081268
Day 3	(7/2)	Basic Gender Concepts International Conventions and Treaties Required readings: Comstock, Audrey. 2023. "Signing CEDAW and Women's Rights: Human Rights Treaty Signature and Legal Mobilization" in Cambridge University Press
Day 4	(7/3)	Civil society and women's rights in Korea Women Policy and Programs in Korea

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
		[Watch and Discuss] Documentary on the history of women activism
Day 5	(7/7)	<p>Korean women and the family : the past and present</p> <p>Required readings: 1. Shin, Ki-young. 2006. "The Politics of the Family Law Reform Movement in Contemporary Korea: Contentious Space for Gender and the Nation" The Journal of Korean Studies. Vol. 11. No. 1. (Fall). Pp.93-125</p> <p>[Book review] Kim Ji-young, Born 1982 [Discussion] Family relations in your country</p> <p>Gender-based violence Conceptual framework Understanding women and sex work</p>
Day 6	(7/8)	<p>1. Soh, Chunghee Sarah. 2000. "From Imperial Gifts to Sex Slaves: Theorizing Symbolic Representations of the 'Comfort Women.'" Social Science Japan Journal 3(1):59-76.</p> <p>2. Hasunuma, Linda and Ki-young Shin. 2020. "#MeToo in Japan and South Korea: #WeToo, #WithYou.</p>
Day 7	(7/9)	Field Visit: War and Women's Human Rights Museum
Day 8	(7/10)	<p>Gender Mainstreaming: Historical overview and approaches: GAD/WID/GM/, Global Gender Norms (CEDAW)</p> <p>Country Gender Profile Gender Statistics, Gender Indices, Gender-Sensitive Indicators</p>
Day 9	(7/14)	<p>Gender analysis tools: how to understand the gender relations in a country</p> <p>Required readings: 1. Moser, Caroline O. N. 1989. "Gender Planning in the Third World: Meeting Practical and Strategic Gender Needs" World Development. Vol 17, No. 11.</p> <p>2. UN Women. 2014. Gender Mainstreaming in Development Programming. Ch. 4-6</p> <p>[In-class activity] Gender analysis</p>
Day 10	(7/15)	<p>Best Practice of Gender Mainstreaming in Korea: -Gender Mainstreaming Initiatives by Seoul Metropolitan Government -Gender Education and Training by KIGEPE</p> <p>[Video watch] gender equality education [Discussion] How important is gender equality education</p>
Day 11	(7/16)	<p>Best Practices of Gender Projects in Development Countries: Case study of sexual and reproductive health education project in Nepal</p> <p>[In-class activity] Designing a gender project</p>
Day 12	(7/17)	<p>Gender relations in Korea today</p> <p>Required reading: Kim. 2021. "The Resurgence and Popularization of Feminism in South Korea: Key Issues and Challenges for Contemporary Feminist Activism"</p>

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 13	(7/21)	Presentation on gender profile (I)
Day 14	(7/22)	Presentation on gender profile (II)
Day 15	(7/23)	Wrap up: ways forward
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.