

Syllabus (2025-Summer)

Course Title	Contemporary Issues in Korean Culture	Course No.	
Credit	3 credits	Hours	45 Hours
Class Time Classroom	Mon to Thr Classroom TBA		
Instructor	Name: Hwajung Kim	Department: Graduate School of International Studies	
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Office Hours Office Location	by appointment (International Education Building #1104)		

I. Course Overview

1. Course Description

As Hallyu (Korean Wave) is an unprecedented phenomenon relating to the global popularity of non-Western cultural products, the course topic of "Special Topics in Contemporary Korean Culture," delving into various contemporary issues in Korean culture, is emerging as a subject for research students to understand why and how non-Western culture can succeed in the 21st century vis-à-vis the predominant global cultural influence of the US since the 20th century, while the gap between Western and non-Western culture has widened in recent years. By looking at various cultural dimensions, the course aims to enhance students' overall understanding of contemporary Korea.

2. Prerequisites

No background needed

3. Course Format

Lecture	Discussion/Presentation	Assignments	Activities	Other
70%	15%	10%	5%	-

4. Course Objectives

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%	-	10%	-	10%	20%	-

II. Course Materials and Additional Readings

1. Required Materials

Kim, Youna, ed. 2017. *Routledge Handbook of Korean Culture and Society*. New York: Routledge.

2. Supplementary Materials

3. Optional Additional Readings

III. Course Schedule

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 1	(6/30)	Introduction of the Course: Behind Hallyu Success General Introductions: 1) why focus on contemporary issues in Korean culture, 2) expectations and responsibilities, 3) class design, 4) student obligations
Day 2	(7/1)	Socio-Economic Changes in South Korea Topics: 1) demographics (population, labor force composition), 2) employment trends, 3) migration and foreign employment, , 4) poverty situation, 5) human development
Day 3	(7/2)	The Characteristics of South Korea's Transformation Topics: 1) globalization, 2) the development of middle class, 3) democratic transition in Korea (globalization, transnational communication)
Day 4	(7/3)	South Korean Youth and Family Topics: 1) the role of youth in transformation, 2) changes in the family of orientation
Day 5	(7/7)	K-Movie: Parasite Watch movie (trailers) and discuss
Day 6	(7/8)	Hallyu Success and Challenges Topics: 1) what makes Hallyu successful, 2) cultural backlashes of Hallyu success
Day 7	(7/9)	Midterm Presentation What Affects the Hallyu Success and Challenges
Day 8	(7/10)	The Emergence of Digital Korea Topics: 1) understanding digitalization, 2) transnationalism, 3) hybridity
Day 9	(7/14)	Cultural Identity of Contemporary Korea Topics: 1) culture and identity formation, 2) what defines contemporary Korea
Day 10	(7/15)	South Korea's Cultural Policy and Diplomacy Topics: 1) national policies, 2) foreign affairs, 3) economic development of K-culture content industry (K-pop, dramas, films, e-sports, webtoons, etc.)
Day 11	(7/16)	Anti-Hallyu Sentiments Topics: 1) various drivers of anti-Hallyu, 2) trends of anti-Hallyu by region
Day 12	(7/17)	Hybridization with Traditional Culture Topics: 1) Gugak, traditional music, 2) the Gat, traditional hat for men, 3) Korean legends and folk tales
Day 13	(7/21)	K-Pop: BTS and its Transnational Cultural Power Watch BTS performance and discuss
Day 14	(7/22)	K-Drama: K-Dramas Meet Netflix Watch one of the distinctive K-dramas on Netflix
Day 15	(7/23)	Final Presentation & Feedback
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 	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.