



KR380 Korean Culture and Society Studies (Online)

Instructor Information	Yihua Hong Home Institution: Suzhou University Email: yhhong@suda.edu.cn		
Term	June 27, 2022 - July 22, 2022	Credits	4 units
Course Delivery	The class will be delivered in the format of online. Other than recorded lecture videos, the instructor will arrange 2-3 hours' real-time interactions with students per week (via Tencent Meeting and WeChat). The workload students are expected to complete to properly pass this course is about 10-12 hours per week.		
Required Texts (with ISBN)	None.		
Prerequisite	None.		



Course Overview

This course is to provide students (who have minimal or no prior knowledge of Korea) with key features and concepts in Korean society, history, culture, politics, and economy. Taking a topical and comparative approach, we will cover the following topics and themes: (1) development of modern Korean nation and its division into North and South; (2) religious and philosophical traditions and values that are basis of the modern Korean culture; (3) Korea's relationship with its neighbors, China, Japan, Russia and the USA in terms of politics, culture and economy; (4) the economic, political, and social changes of South and North Korea in the last seven decades; (5) nation-building of North Korea, its leadership, and ideology; (6) challenges of globalization and demographic changes of the two Koreas in the post-1990s; (7) popular cultures of the two Koreas; (8) Koreans residing overseas and their relationship with their homeland; and (9) the inter-Korean relationship, unification efforts, and future of the Korean Peninsula.

Course Goals

To help understand Korean culture, society and history in a broader regional and global context, the two Koreas will be compared with China, and Japan where such comparisons are useful.

At the end of the semester, students are expected to have a solid knowledge of the key features and issues of South and North Korean society, culture, politics, economy, and international relations. In learning these issues, students would develop critical and independent thinking. Upon completing this course, they will be ready to take other higher-level courses on Korea and/or Asian countries.

Course Learning Outcomes

At the completion of this course, it is intended that students will be able to:

- Be well-versed in the themes and topics dealt in the course regarding the Korean culture, history, society, economy and politics.
- Describe and explain some of the important cultural norms and practices of Korea and how they are different and similar among the three Northeast Asian countries of China, Japan and Korea.
- Critically evaluate popular media views on some of the important historical, cultural and political issues of the two Koreas.

Final Exam (40%): 2 hours' Written Test



Assessment Summary

The final grade of the course is based on Course work (60%) and Final Examination (40%). The course work part of the grade is comprised of Assignment (10%), Research Essay (30%), Lecture participation (10%), and Tutorial participation (10%).

Grading Policy

Type	Description	Weight	Due	Length/ Required Time
Lecture Participation	Attendance	10%	Multiple Days	N/A
Tutorial Participation	Quiz (On-line Submission)	10% (5% each, twice in total)	July 8, 15	250 words each
Assignment	Home Assignment (On-line Submission)	10%	July 19	500 words
Research Essay	(On-line Submission)	30%	July 22, 10pm	1,500 words
Final Exam	Written Test (On-line Submission)	40%	July 22	1.5-2 hours

Grading Scale

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3.0
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2.0
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1.0
≤59	F (Failure)	0



Class Schedule

Date	Lecture	Readings/Films Recommended	Online Teaching Arrangement
Day 1 (27 June)	Course Introduction & Two Koreas in Global and Asian Context	Korea's Place in the Sun (PDF available)	◇ 70 minutes pre-recorded video lecture
Day 2 (28 June)	History of Korea: From Pre-Dynastic Period to Korean Empire (1910)	The Fortress (SK Film, 2017) The Great Battle (SK Film, 2018) Forbidden Dream (SK Film, 2018)	◇ 70 mins pre-recorded video lecture
Day 3 (29 June)	15 Fascinating Facts about South Korea & Things You Need to Know to Survive in SK & K-Pop and Korean Wave		◇ 70 minutes pre-recorded video lecture
Day 4 (30 June)	Religious and Philosophical Traditions of Korea & Korean Culture and Values	Characteristics of Religious Life in South Korea: A Sociological Survey (PDF available)	◇ 70 minutes pre-recorded video lecture
Day 5 (1 July)	Development of the Korean Identity & Modern Nation-Building	South Korea's National Identity Crisis in the Face of Emerging Multiculturalism (PDF available)	◇ 70 minutes pre-recorded video lecture ◇ 120 minutes online interaction for Week1
Day 6 (4 July)	National Division & Korean War Perspectives & Two Koreas (1945-1950s)	TaeGukGi: Brotherhood of War (SK Film, 2003); My Way (SK Film, 2011)	◇ 70 minutes pre-recorded video lecture
Day 7 (5 July)	Economic Developments of SK and NK (1950s-1990s): Miracle on the Han River vs. International Food Aid Receiver	South Korea's Economic Development, 1948-1996. (PDF available)	◇ 70 minutes pre-recorded video lecture
Day 8 (6 July)	Political and Social Changes in North Korea	South Korea's Democratic Changes and their Political Impact (PDF available)	◇ 70 minutes pre-recorded video lecture
Day 9 (7 July)	Nuclear Development in North Korea & US-ROK Cooperation in Deterring North Korea's Military Threat	Let them eat rice: North Korea's public distribution system NK News - North Korea New, Article by Fyodor Tertitskiy (PDF available)	◇ 70 minutes pre-recorded video lecture
Day 10 (8 July)	Social, Political Changes and Democratization in South Korea (1950s-1990s)	A Taxi Driver (SK Film, 2017); South Korea's Demographic Changes and their Political Impact (PDF available)	◇ 70 minutes pre-recorded video lecture ◇ 120 minutes online interaction via Tencent for Week2 ◇ Quiz
Day 11 (11 July)	Post-1990s South Korean Society (1990s-2021)	Default (SK Film, 2018)	◇ 70 minutes pre-recorded video lecture



Day 12 (12 July)	Eleven Ex-Presidents of SK: What happened during their Presidential Terms? & Where did they go after Presidency?	The Man Standing Next (SK Film, 2019); Our President (SK Film, 2017) The President's Barber (SK Film, 2004)	◇ 70 minutes pre- recorded video lecture
Day 13 (13 July)	Gender Politics & The Metoo Movement in SK & Queer Korea	Kim Ji-young, Born 1982 (SK Film, 2019)	◇ 70 minutes pre- recorded video lecture
Day 14 (14 July)	The Image of North Koreans in Contemporary South Korean Films and Soap Operas	Bevan, Jake (2010) "Welcome to Panmunjeom: encounters with the north in contemporary South Korean cinema" New Cinemas Journal of Contemporary Film;	◇ 70 minutes pre- recorded video lecture
Day 15 (15 July)	A Transition from an Ethnically Homogeneous Society to a Multicultural Society: 7.5million Koreans residing Overseas and 2.5million Foreigners in SK	He's on Duty(방가방가) (SK Film 2010); The Archaeology of the Ethnically Homogeneous Nation-State and Multiculturalism in Korea (PDF available)	◇ 70 minutes pre- recorded video lecture ◇ 120 minutes online interaction via Tencent for Week3 ◇ Quiz
Day 16 (18 July)	Inter-Korean Relations and Imagining the Unified Korea	Steel Rain2: Summit (SK Film, 2019) The Politics of Ethnic Nationalism in Divided Korea in Nations and Nationalism (PDF available)	◇ 70 minutes pre- recorded video lecture
Day 17 (19 July)	Korea's Relationship with its Neighbors, China, Japan, Russia and the USA in terms of Politics, Culture and Economy	A Peninsula of Paradoxes: South Korean Public Opinion on Unification and Outside Powers (PDF available)	◇ 70 minutes pre- recorded video lecture ◇ Due date for Homework
Day 18 (20 July)	Colonial Memory in the Contemporary Koreas & Issues Left Over	Dongju: The Portrait of a Poet (SK Film, 2015) A Resistance (SK Film, 2019) Herstory (SK Film, 2017)	◇ 70 minutes pre- recorded video lecture
Day 19 (21 July)	Things that Threaten SK young People in Contemporary SK	Hope (SK Film, 2013); Silenced (SK Film, 2011);	◇ 70 minutes pre- recorded video lecture ◇ 120 minutes online interaction Week4
Day 20 (22 July)	Final Exam		◇ On-line Submission ◇ Due date for Research essay