



Sungkyunkwan University Winter International Student Experience (WISE) 2015
"Exploring Korea's hidden depths"

Course Syllabus

Korean Culture and Society: Dynamic Korea

Youngeun Jang, Sungkyunkwan University

SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as an introductory overview of Korean history, culture and society from and modern times to the present. It will also help students, who do not have prior knowledge, to understand the cultural norms, values and attitudes of contemporary Korean society. The course is divided into three themes: History & Politics, Culture & Society and Contemporary Issues.

The 'History & Politics' theme will explore Korean modern history, with a focus not only Korean history, but also developments in East Asia including China and Japan related to the Korean peninsula. In this context, the Korean political system will also be discussed, including attention to Korean authoritarianism, democratic movements, and citizens' participation.

The second theme will focus on the current 'Culture & Society' issues such as language, food, religion and interpersonal relations in Korean society. In the final week, the third theme on contemporary Korean pop culture will include, for example, discussion of current music, TV dramas, and movies in Korea. In this course, we will also consider Korea's future in the context of global challenges such as the need to insure shared prosperity for all. The class lectures will be supplemented with films, video clips, slides and other visual materials.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

This course aims primarily to provide a basic understanding of Korean history, culture and society for foreign students and therefore no previous knowledge is required. However, all students are expected to participate actively throughout the course and those who do not attend and participate risk failing to course. This course will be evaluated based on a group project.

1. Project proposal (30%)
2. Final presentation (50%)
3. Active participation (20%)
4. The presentation attendance is mandatory for everyone

COURSE SCHEDULE

– WEEK I –

Wednesday (7 January)

Introduction&Contemporary history: Colonial period, Korean War

Thursday (8 January)

Contemporary history: Colonial period, Korean War(2)

Friday (9 January)

Republic of Korea since 1948

Monday (12 January)

Republic of Korea since 1948 (2)

Tuesday (13 January)

Democratic Movement & Politics and systems

– WEEK II –

Wednesday (14 January)

Democratic Movement & Politics and systems(2)

Thursday (15 January)

Modern Korean Culture (1)

Friday (16 January)

Modern Korean Culture (2)

Monday (19 January)

Modern Korean Culture (3)

Tuesday (20 January)

Cultural Code & Communication (4)

– WEEK III –

Wednesday (21 January)

Cultural Code & Communication (1)

Thursday (22 January)

Cultural Code & Communication (2)

Friday (23 January)
Final assessment

Monday (26 January)
Final assessment

Tuesday (27 January)
The Future of Korea