## Introduction to Korean Studies

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<th>CREDIT</th>
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<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
<th>Kelly Jeong</th>
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<td>E-MAIL</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kelly.jeong@ucr.edu">kelly.jeong@ucr.edu</a></td>
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### [COURSE INFORMATION]

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & GOALS**

This is an introductory and interdisciplinary survey course on Korean culture and society. Our goal as a class is to gain a comprehensive understanding of Korean culture and society and its larger attendant issues, such as class and gender in traditional Korea, its history of colonialism, Korean War, and their aftermaths, the politics of national division, economic growth and modernization of South Korea, its contemporary cultural expressions, to name a few, in their proper context. Through our examination of cultural, historical, anthropological, literary, and cinematic texts we hope to arrive at a more inclusive, yet heterogeneous and wide-ranging, view of Korean culture and society.

**PREREQUISITE**

None

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Attendance and completion of assignments and examinations.

**GRADING POLICY**

- Attendance 10%
- Quiz (Total) 30%: Quizzes will take place in the beginning of class and cannot be made up. There will be 5-6 quizzes throughout the course.
- Midterm 30% (Multiple-Choice, Short Answers, and Fill-in-the-blanks questions)
- Final 30% (Same)

**TEXTS & NOTES**

Required Course Reader

**INSTRUCTOR’S PROFILE**

Professor of Korean Studies and Comparative Literature, Dept. of Comparative Literature, University of California, Riverside

Ph.D. in Comparative Literature (UCLA)
M.A. in Comparative Literature (UCLA)
B.A. in Comparative Literature (UCI)

Areas of Teaching and Research Specialization: Modern Korean literature, film, cultural studies, comparative literature, and critical theory
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK (PERIOD)</th>
<th>WEEKLY TOPIC &amp; CONTENTS</th>
<th>COURSE MATERIAL &amp; ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
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| 1             | T. Introduction. Tangun Myth, PPT from “Ideology, Culture and Han” (Naehun)  
                W. “The Koreans, Their Culture and Personality”; “The Cheong Space”; Film Excerpts from “King and the Clown”  
                Th. Korea’s Neo Confucian Culture: KPS 19-26; 39-85 | Lectures and Group Discussions based on the Course Readings and other materials, including films | |
| 2             | M. “A New History of Korea” Ch. 14  
                T. “A New History of Korea” Ch. 15  
                W. “A Lucky Day” [31-37]; “Potatoes”  
                Th. “A Day in the Life of Kubo the Novelist” | Lectures and Group Discussions based on the Course Readings and other materials, including films | |
| 3             | M. “Women of Choson Korea” T. Yoo  
                T. “New Woman in Colonial Korea” T. Yoo  
                W. Film “Angels in the Streets” (110 min): making of the imperial citizens and censorship  
                Th. Midterm Exam | Lectures and Group Discussions based on the Course Readings and other materials, including films | Mid-term exam |
| 4             | M. Korea’s Place in the Sun Ch. 4  
                T. “Far From Home”; “Kapitan Lee”  
                W. Film “Barefoot Youth” or another Korean film from the 1960s  
                Th. “Journey to Mujin” | Lectures and Group Discussions based on the Course Readings and other materials, including films | |
| 5             | M. NNBK Ch. 5-6  
                T. Industrialization, Modernization, and the Other 342-382  
                W. Film excerpt from “A Single Spark,” Park Kwangsu, 1995  
                Th. Contentious Kwangju, Shin; Baker | Lectures and Group Discussions based on the Course Readings and other materials, including films | |
| 6             | M. Kwangju Uprising: Film excerpt from “May 18” (118 min.)  
                T. “The Grey Snowman” by Ch’oe Yun; 1980s  
                W. “Christmas Specials”; “Raccoon World”  
                Th. Final Exam | Lectures and Group Discussions based on the Course Readings and other materials, including films | Final exam |