I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed to introduce students to the main aspects of contemporary Korean culture and society, including those pertaining to shamanism, Confucianism, the family, industrialization, gender, aging, religion, and ethnic diversity. The course will specifically focus on topics and issues that figure prominently in the lives of the Korean people, such as shamanistic worldview, collectivism, education frenzy, patriarchy, modernization, rise of Christianity, urbanization, and anti-Americanism. Each of these issues will be examined through sociological, historical, and comparative perspectives.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES
The principal objective of this course is to prepare students with the knowledge and analytical tools needed to develop balanced views on Korean society. Toward this end, students are expected to:

- understand the key dimensions and principal trends of Korean society;
- comprehend how class, race-ethnicity, gender, and age relate to social institutions such as the family, education, economy, religion, and politics;
- think globally, question commonly held beliefs, assess different perspectives used by sociologists, and to use this process to understand the forces that generate change and continuity in Korean society;
- understand how significant changes in society affect the experiences of diverse groups in Korea; and
- understand various social problems facing Korean society, including inequality, sexism, and aging population.

III. REQUIRED READINGS
A reading packet (available from Gongmunhwasa, located just outside the back gate)
**Recommended Readings**


**IV. REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION**

1. **Class Participation (10% of the final grade):**

   Class participation is a critical component of this course and it has two dimensions: class attendance and active participation in class discussions. Students are invited to share their thoughts on the assigned readings and raise questions for class discussions. The responsibility for having lively discussions rests on you, so it is everyone’s responsibility to come to class prepared, i.e., completing the assigned readings and reflecting on the issues and arguments of the reading, and be willing to engage in discussion. Your participation will be evaluated in terms of both the frequency and quality of your presentation of ideas. Please remember to show respect to other students’ opinions and be thoughtful of others’ opportunities to participate.

2. **Midterm Exam (30% of the final grade)**

Midterm exam will consist of short- and long-essay questions.

3. **Final Exam (30% of the final grade)**

The format of the final exam is the same as that of midterm exam and is not cumulative.
4. Term Paper (30% of the final grade)
Term paper should focus on any aspect of Korean culture and society. The length should be 10-15 pages long, double-spaced. Deadline: TBA.

V. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES
Class Attendance: Attendance will be taken on a regular basis. Unexcused absences will result in a 2-10 point reduction from your total points AND if you miss class more than four times, you will automatically receive “F” as the final grade.

Classroom Expectations and Behavior: You are responsible for knowing the material and announcements presented during lectures whether or not you attend class. Please arrange with another student to get missed notes and announcements. Please do not disrupt other students’ ability to hear lectures (e.g., do not arrive late or leave early, be prepared to take notes before lectures begin, do not read or talk during lecture, and do not begin packing your belongings before class ends).

Commitment to Learning: There is no point in taking a course if you are not committed to learning. That means doing the readings, showing up, concentrating, and participating in class discussion. We will struggle through ideas and readings that may be difficult or may seem boring if you do not understand them. I strive to make the class interesting, but it is your responsibility to be committed.

Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously and are grounds for failure in this course. Students caught cheating during the exam time will automatically fail the course. To plagiarize is to use another’s words as your own, without proper attribution given to the original author. If requested, students in this course must provide computer copies of their papers for examination by plagiarism detection software. Keep electronic copies (and backups) of all course work.

VI. CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENT
June 29        Introduction
June 30 & 31   Shamanism and Korean Culture
   Required Readings:
   Kendall, Diana. Culture.
   Moon, Sang-hi. Shamanism in Korea
July 1 & 5  Confucianism and Korean Culture
Required Readings:
Koh, Byung-ik. Confucianism in Contemporary Korea.

July 6 & 7  The Changing Patterns of the Family
Required Readings:
Kweon, Sug-In. The Extended family in contemporary Korea—Korea Journal 38(3).
Kim, Yi Eunhee. 1998. “Home is a Place to Rest”: Constructing the Meaning of Work, Family and Gender in the Korean Middle Class.

July 8 & 12  Gender Inequality
Required Readings:
Cho, Sung-Nam. Globalization and Women in South Korea.
Lee, Kye Woo. Evolution of Women’s Employment and Gender Discrimination in Korea.
Yoon, Jongbin. Women’s Parliamentary Participation and Electoral System in Korea.

July 13 & 14  Religion & Christianity in Korea
Required Readings:
Kim, Andrew. Protestantism in Korea and Japan from the 1880s to the 1940s: A Comparative Study of Differential Cultural Reception and Social Impact.
Lee, Won-Gue. A Sociological Study on the Factors of Church Growth and Decline in Korea.

July 15  Midterm Exam

July 19 & 20  Urbanization: Seoul-centered Urbanization
Required Readings:
Kim, Yong-Woong. Industrialization and Urbanization in Korea.
Ha, Seong-Kyu. Urban Growth and Housing Development in Korea.
July 21 & 22  **Rapid Industrialization and Economic Transformation**  
Required Readings:  
Jwa, Sung-Hee and Seo Jung-Whan. Industrial Policies in Korea.  

July 26 & 27  **The Nature of Anti-Americanism in Korea**  
Required Readings:  
Gweon, Yong-Lib. The Changing Perception of America in South Korea.  

July 28 & 29  **Aging**  
Required Readings:  

August 2-4  **Making of a Multiethnic Korea: Causes, Patterns, and Challenges**  
Required Readings:  
Kim, Eungi. Global Migration and South Korea.

August 5  **Final Exam**