

Korea and Globalization

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Teaching time	Afternoon

Course Description:

Since the 1980s, South Korea has been among the most enthusiastic participants in the global economy, creating one of the most prosperous and vibrant societies today, but that success has not come without a cost. The aim of the course is to gain a broader understanding of the impact that South Korea's embrace of globalization has had on Korean society and the world, for good and for ill. We will examine social and cultural issues and their context in the region, understanding the various ways transnational issues have asserted their influence in Korean society, such as: the dominant influences jaebol conglomerates hold over Korea and the world markets; the global and local cultural impact of the Korean culture industry; consumer capitalism and its reinterpretation and commodification of Korean culture; the social impact of immigration on Korean identity and place in the world; or the cost of development on an aging Korean population unprepared for retirement. Not only will we learn and discuss these issues, but will also witness and experience these issues first-hand in Korea through research, interviewing individuals, and guest speakers.

- Understand the impact of Korea's participation in a globalized world on its culture, society, and economy
- Recognize the modern social, economic, and cultural issues stemming from globalization
- Compare Korea's global experience with other parts of the world
- Interview experts and locals about their views of globalization, social change, and cultural shifts.
- Research and analyze a current global social, cultural, or political issue in Korea
- Produce a professional-quality presentation summarizing research findings and conclusions to an audience

Materials/Text:

All reading assignments will be provided online without cost in the form of publicly available articles.

Requirements:

There is no requirement for any background knowledge or pre-requisite courses in Korea related topics or Korean language.

Schedule:

Tentative Schedule

Session 1 – Introduction to Korea

Session 2 – Imperialism and Civil War

Session 3 – Democratization and Political Polarization

- Session 4 – Research: Project Planning
- Session 5 – Jaebol and Economic Development
- Session 6 – Women’s Rights
- Session 7 – K-Culture Industry
- Session 8 – Research: Conducting Research
- Session 9 – Religion and Society
- Session 10 – Immigration and Identity
- Session 11 – Food and Mukbang
- Session 12 – Research: Writing and Presenting
- Session 13 – Education and Hyper-competitiveness
- Session 14 – Global Power and Influence
- Session 15 – Research: Presentations

Assignments:

Research Project

Each student will research and analyze a particular issue of their choice on the intersection of globalization and Korean society and culture. Students will conduct their research, gather data, and interpret conclusions independently under the occasional guidance of the professor. At the end of the course, each student will conduct a professional final presentation project. Students will be graded on the quality of their research and presentation. Every Thursday there will be a research workshop to assist and guide planning for the project, acting as a scaffolding activity.

Discussion

Discussions will be based on in-class discussions that are centered on specific themes and readings. You will be graded on in-class engagement, relevant comments, articulating questions or arguments, and generally contributing to the conversation. Grading for discussions is about participation and engagement, not about being right or wrong, although knowledge and understanding of accompanying reading will be required. All discussions must be civil and respectful.

Response

Responses are short informal writing responses to a particular source or a particular question. In these assignments I am assessing you on engagement, critical thinking, understanding, making connections with discussions in class lecture or other reading materials, as well as your ability to articulate your thoughts. Response assignments are about a page in length. You will not be graded on grammar, spelling, or writing mechanics on these assignments.

Evaluation:

A+	A	B+	B	C+	C	D+	D	F
95 - 100	90 - 94.99	85 - 89.99	80 - 84.99	75 - 79.99	70 - 74.99	65 - 69.99	60 - 64.99	0 - 59.99