

Korea and Globalization

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Class 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 through an anthropological and ethnographic lens, understanding the various ways transnational issues have asserted their influence in Korean society, politics, and culture. Students will engage with the subject by producing their own ethnography of globalization in Korea through guided research into a topic of their own choosing as their final project.

- 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 current global social, cultural, or political issue in Korea
- Produce a professional-quality ethnographic 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 – Historical Context
- Session 3 – Ethnography and Anthropology of Globalization
- 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:**Ethnographic Research Project**

Each student will research and analyze a particular issue of their choice on the intersection of globalization and Korean society and culture, producing an original ethnographic presentation. 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 for which they will receive credit.

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.

Field Trips/Field Work

There will be a number of field trips associated or part of the course depending on opportunities made available to us. Furthermore, it is expected that students will be expected to engage in field research in a participant observation model. This is to be organized by students on their own initiative and according to their own schedule.

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