**Korean Culture: Spring 2024**

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**Course Description:**

# This course is designed to introduce the contemporary culture of Korea. It seeks to help students develop a dynamic and comprehensive understanding of Korean culture by exploring various topics, using visual resources (K-dramas, movies, and documentary clips), and taking an intercultural communication approach. Korean society has undergone a rapid societal and cultural change, and its unique and vibrant cultural aspects have caught the spotlight in the most recent decade with the Korean Wave. This course will explore how Korea has changed over time and what cultural norms and social values have played a role in its transformation. This course includes lectures, discussions of readings, K-dramas and movies, and cultural activities.

# Objectives: students will be able to

# explore their assumptions of Korea and Korean culture.

# understand Korean culture based on society, history, and politics in a comprehensive way.

# identify the cultural norms behind language, social behavior, and Korean media.

# get a sense of intercultural communication competence in various cross-cultural contexts.

# develop multiliteracies, aesthetics, and intellectual experiences through diverse topics and movies.

# Course Materials

# Tudor, Daniel (2012). Korea: The Impossible Country, Tuttle Publishing. ISBN: 9780804846394

# All other materials will be available on Canvas.

# Course Requirements

# Canvas reading responses 30%

# Unit response paper (each unit) 30%

# Final project+presentation 30%

# Participation 10%

**Reading responses:** Before class time each week, students will need to read the assigned chapters or articles and write a short individual reflection, with an emphasis on a.) general comprehension of the chapter’s main points and b.) specific points which you feel deserve further discussion. These will be posted on the Canvas discussion boards before the beginning of class. They must be at least 250 words, contain a summary of the chapters as you understand it, and have one point of discussion for the class.

# Unit response paper: After finishing each unit, students will be asked to write informal, 3-4 pages (Times New Roman 12pt font and double-spaced) response paper. The paper should address their reactions and interpretations of class materials including lectures, readings, films and dramas, discussions or cultural activities. Students can discuss what they found intriguing about what they did in class and their thoughts/reflections/opinions about the topics they choose to write about.

# Final project: 1) Choose a K- drama or K-movie. 2) Analyze aspects of Korean culture or analyze aspects of two cultures (comparing and contrasting them). This will be the culmination work based on what students have learned over one semester. This paper will be a formal academic paper with citations, analyzing the cultural aspects (5-6 double-spaced pages, Times New Roman 12pt font). For example, the paper can focus on an issue or a character in the movie or drama you chose; analyze the interactions of people or approach a topic such as how educational norms in Korean are shown in the movie and drama. Students can choose the topics related to Korean culture they will learn through this course. The guidelines for the composition will be provided later.

# Participation and attendance: Class participation and attendance are crucial for constructing our interactive classroom and knowledge. Absence will be counted at 10 minutes after the hour, a tardy at 5 minutes after the hour.

**Grading Scale:**

93 – 100+% = A 77 – 79% = C+

90 – 92% = A- 73 – 76% = C

87 – 89% = B+ 70 – 72% = C-

83 – 86% = B 50 – 69% = D\*

80 – 82% = B-

**Unexcused Absence Policy*:*** It is the policy of the Indiana Academy that any absence from class is unexcused, except for illness, death in the family, college or school-related activities, and extenuating circumstances. When a student is absent from a class, the instructor reports the student absence to the Faculty Attendance Coordinator in the Office of Academy Affairs. Unless the absence is excused by a school official, it is considered unexcused. The decision as to whether an absence is excused is NOT determined by the instructor.Although all absences, both excused and unexcused, are tracked within the Office of Academic Affairs, instructors of each class are free to use discretion with a student’s first three unexcused absences. Four or more unexcused absences in any class a student takes will lead to academic and residential consequences to be determined by the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Residential Life that may include detention, residential groundings, parent/principal conference, among others.

**Penalty Policy for Unexcused Absences:**A student may make up all work that is missed during the ***first three unexcused absences.*** No make-up tests or quizzes will be given for students who miss four or more classes due to an unexcused absence**.** Make-up work must be completed within two school days of the absence.Students who miss four or more classes due to an unexcused absence may submit homework for half credit though no homework will be accepted beyond two school days of the missed class period.

**Make-up Policy for Excused Absences*:*** All tests, quizzes, and homework may be made up from an excused absence. Tests and quizzes must be taken within 5 school days after the excused absence unless there are extenuating circumstances. The same applies to missed homework. Students should expect to take a different version of the test or quiz than the one given to the class during the original test date.

**A word on plagiarism.**  Plagiarism is passing off someone else’s ideas and information as your own. Never copy a paragraph, a section of information, or an entire essay and paste it into your paper. Also, the use of electronic translators constitutes an act of plagiarism. Copying someone else’s work is a crime. It is stealing intellectual information. To be on the safe side, always put ideas into your own words and cite the source where you find it. In addition, never allow someone else to write a paper for you, and never turn in someone else’s paper as your own. The penalties are severe.

In this spring semester, the statement of artificial intelligence (AI) was added. “The Humanities Division recognizes that artificial intelligence (AI) provides some exciting new tools for academic work. However, AI also poses significant dangers for academic integrity. Passing off as your own any research, words, or ideas which you did not create is plagiarism. That is always the case whether the source is print, internet content, or generated by AI. It is vital to read the policies your individual humanities instructors have regarding AI and ask them any questions you may have about the use of AI in their course.” Also, the use of AI in class, for a discussion, quiz or other activity (such as Canvas reading responses) will result in a charge of academic dishonesty.

**Importance of diversity and inclusion**:Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome by valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found at <http://cms.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter>

**Syllabus**

**Overview of course**

Week1(01/04-01/05)Course Introduction

**Unit 1. Intercultural communication**

Week 2-3 (01/08-01/12, 01/17-01/19) Canvas #1(01/09)

* Assigned reading: \*Samovar, L.A. and Porter, R.E.(2001) Ch.1 The challenges of intercultural communication: interaction in a diverse world (pp.2-19) In *Communication between two cultures*, Wadsworth.
* Assigned reading: \*Samovar, L.A. and Porter, R.E.(2001) Ch.3 Dominant American cultural patterns/ Hofstede’s value dimensions (pp.65-73); Halls’ high-context and low-context orientation(pp.79-82) In *Communication between two cultures*, Wadsworth.
* **Brief Synopsis of Korean history**

Assigned reading: Tudor, Introduction(pp.10-12) (no Canvas)

Unit 1Response paper due

**Unit 2. Religions in Korea**

Week 4-5 (01/22-01/26, 01/29-02/02) Canvas#2 (Shamanism, Buddhism 01/21)

C#2-1(Confucianism, Christianism 01/28)

* **Shamanism**  Assigned reading: Tudor, Ch. 1 Shamanism(pp.24-33)
* **Buddhism** Assigned reading: Tudor, Ch. 2 Buddhism (pp. 34-41)

Assigned reading: \*Yum, J.O.(1987). Korean philosophy and communication (pp.83-86) In

*Communication theory: Eastern and Western perspectives* D. Lawrence Kincaid

Academic Press, INC.

* **Confucianism**:

Assigned reading: Tudor, Ch. 3 Confucianism(pp.42-53)

Assigned reading: \*Yum, J.O.(1987). Korean philosophy and communication (pp.71-80). In *Communication theory: Eastern and Western perspectives* D. Lawrence Kincaid Academic Press, INC.

* **Christianism**:

Assigned reading: Tudor, Ch. 4 Christianity(pp.54-65)

# Tea culture/or Temple stay

Unit 2 Response paper due

**Unit 3. Korean communication ways**

Week 6(02/07-02/09) C#3(02/07)

* Assigned reading: \*Park, Myung-Seok (1997) Different attitudes toward age(pp.87-97); Discoursal differences(pp.23-28) Interpersonal interactions (pp. 98-111) Family life and women issue (pp.59-64); In *Communication Styles in Two different Cultures: Korean and American*, Hanshin Publishing.

Unit 3 response paper due

**Unit 4 Economics in Korea and Work Culture**

Week 7 (02/12-02/16) C#4(02/11)

* Assigned reading: Tudor, Ch. 5 Capitalism with a Korean Face(pp.66-77), Tudor, Ch.15 Onward, Industrial Soldiers (pp. 169-180)

Unit 4 response paper due

**Unit 5 Education in Korea**

Week 8(02/19-02/23) C#5(02/18)

* Assigned reading: Tudor, Ch. 8 Competition (pp. 101-111)

Unit 5 response paper due

# Unit 6 Korean food, drinking, and housing

# Week 9(02/26-03/01) C#6 (02/25)

# Assigned reading: Tudor, ch.20 Four Seasons at the table; ch.23 Work All Day, Stay Out All Night; ch.19 Living Space: From Hanok to Apartment Houses and Back again

# https://youtu.be/oN0rEJxvQZQ (Hansik of The Day, Ep.13, Ordinary daily life \_ Full Episode, Arirang TV)

# https://youtu.be/f9eOUtm-vLs (Taste of Wisdom Ep04 Korean's soul food, kimchi)

# https://youtu.be/irpKTxUkuS8 (Arirang Special] Rice Effect \_ Full Episode)

# https://youtu.be/r5yuurtRiJw

# (Houses that Breathe, Hanok [The Wonders of Korea 2 / 2016.10.21] (KBS World))

# https://youtu.be/lxtUKVzVBlU

# (Korean Liquor Exploration Ep1] Pork belly & Soju | Back when alcohol cost 10 cents)

# Unit 6 Response paper due

Week10(03/04-03/08) Spring Break!!! 

**Unit 7. The Korean War and North Korea**

Week 11-12(03/11-15, 03/18-03/22) C#7 (03/12)

Movie: Odd to My Father/JSA 

<https://tubitv.com/movies/702940/ode-to-my-father>

https://tubitv.com/movies/633217/joint-security-area

* Assigned reading: Tudor ch.13 North Korea: Friend, Foe, or Foreigner? (pp. 146-154)
* Confucianism/Han: preference for sons: son as the head of the household and the importance of education
* Assigned reading: Tudor ch.10 Han and Heung(pp.120-127)
* Cultural elements related to the Korean War: 부산, 깡통 시장, 국제시장, 입양, 부대찌개, 이산가족찾기, 독인인의 마을 (파독 간호사 광부)

Unit 7 Response paper due

**Unit 8. Korean Politics**

Week 13-14 (03/23-03/29, 04/02-04/05) C#8(03/24) 

Movie: A Taxi Driver (2017, by Jang Hoon)- YouTube video free, Amazon Prime video free

https://youtu.be/OWuB1ohsa3U?si=8mcWb8Ty4bay-GwC

* Assigned reading: “Defining Political Ideologies In South Korea: Dividing Line Growing More Complex and Flexible In Recent Years.” *The Korea Herald*, 29 Oct 2023, <https://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20220406000856>
* Assigned reading: Tudor ch.7 Jeong-The Invisible Hug.

Unit 8 Response paper due

# Unit 9 Social issues

# Week 15-16 (04/08-04/12, 04/15-04/19) C#9(04/14)

# Movie: Parasites

# Education /class conflicts and wealth inequality/colonialism/youth unemployment

# Assigned reading: Analysis of social class inequality based on the movie parasite (

# https://www.atlantis-press.com/article/125949420.pdf)

# Assigned reading: Tudor ch.18 English Mania (pp. 201-208)

# Unit 9 response paper due

**Unit 10 K-pop**

Week 17(04/22-04/25) C#10(04/21)

* \*Assigned reading: Analysis on South Korean Soft Power-Taking BTS, Squid games, and Parasites as examples

# Unit 10 response paper due

# Final

# Week 18(04/29-05/03)

# Final project (05/01)+Presentation (05/03)

# This syllabus is subject to change during the semester if necessary to better accommodate the classroom situation(s).

# \*is an assigned reading on Canvas