

**INTRODUCTION TO KOREAN CULTURE [AAS 217]  
SPRING 2014**

**TIME AND CLASSROOM**

2:30~4:50 (lectures), M/W, Frey Hall #313

**INSTRUCTOR**

Heejeong Sohn  
N5520 Melville Library  
Email: heejeong.sohn@stonybrook.edu  
OH: 1-2:20pm, M/W or by appointments

\*\*This course satisfies D.E.C. category J and the Korean Studies minor requirement.

<b>COURSE DESCRIPTION</b>
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This is an introductory course to Korean history, culture and society with a focus on major social and historical changes related to contemporary Korean culture. The course will explore diverse themes relevant to understanding Korea today, such as religions, modernization, nationalism, arts, lifestyles and Korean images in the U.S. as well as contemporary popular culture. In doing so, the course analyzes various mediums such as historical texts, material objects, photographs, geography, literature, films, and newspaper articles.

<b>Instructional Goals</b>
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**Learning Outcomes for this course:**

- To be able to identify major issues and characteristics in Korean culture
- To understand Korean culture and society that led to critical reflection on contemporary issues and culture surrounding the peninsula.
- To develop cross-cultural insights and understand the differences in cultural patterns between Korea and its neighboring countries and the U.S.
- To be able to read and interpret primary sources and apply them to understand the issues of the past and the present
- To learn how to produce a visual format of a report based on research on primary materials

**Department Learning Goals Met by this Course:**

Acquire in-depth knowledge of at least one East Asian language (Chinese, Japanese, or Korean) and the literature and culture of one or more of these countries; effectively use tools (reference works, etc.) and technology appropriate to learning an East Asian language; and analyze issues concerning East Asia and relate them to other areas in the humanities and social sciences following an interdisciplinary approach.

<b>Requirements &amp; Grading</b>
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**\*\* Attendance Policy: Attendance is required for this class. More than 2 absences will result a point loss directly off the final grade. A total of 6 absences will disqualify students from getting a grade from this class.**

Classroom Participation	10%
4 Quizzes (1 map quiz, 3 identification quizzes)	40%
15 Reading Responses	15%

Cultural Reportage (visual file, written essay & presentation)	15%
Final Exam	20%
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Extra Credit responses (reviews, talks)	10%
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Total	110%

<b>Required Texts</b> (Additional readings are provided online)
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## Textbooks

- Donald Clark, Culture and Customs of Korea (CCK) (Greenwood Press, 2000)
- Daniel Tudor, Korea: The Impossible Country (KIC) (Tuttle, 2012)

\* Additional readings are provided through Blackboard.

## Novels (for extra-credit reviews and talks)

- Chang-rae Lee, Native Speaker
- Catherine Chung, Forgotten Country
- Maija Rhee-Devine, Voices of Heaven
- Derek Kirk Kim, Same, Difference

<b>Course Protocol</b>
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- Attendance: Regular class attendance is mandatory. More than 2 absences will result a point loss directly off the final grade. A total of 6 absences will disqualify students from getting a grade from this class.
- Assignments: All reading and written assignments should be submitted on time. Late assignments will result in a deduction of points.
- Gadgets: Communication devices are useful but can be an immense distraction to you and others around you. All devices including cellphones and laptops must be turned off for the duration of the class.
- During tests, all electronic devices should be turned off and won't be permitted on your desks. Restroom visits are also not allowed, so be prepared accordingly.
- Plagiarism: All written work should be composed in the student's own words and the ideas of others should be properly cited. Students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the university's policy on plagiarism. If you have any questions concerning this policy or about documentation of sources in work you produce in this course, feel free to ask me.
- Final note: This syllabus may be modified throughout the semester, and it is the responsibility of each student to keep up to date of all announcements made in class.

## **Course Resources**

Blackboard: <https://blackboard.stonybrook.edu/webapps/login/>

Writing Center: [http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/writrhet/writing\\_center/writing.html](http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/writrhet/writing_center/writing.html)

Career Center: <http://career.stonybrook.edu>

### **DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)**

If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, room128, (631) 632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>

### **CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT**

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn.

<b>Schedule for Class Meetings, Readings, and Assignments</b>
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<b>Week 1 (1/27, 29): Introduction &amp; Course Overview</b>
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- M Course Overview  
W How to approach Korean Culture as a subject

**Part I: Foundation of Culture, Society and History**

<b>Week 2 (2/3, 5): Historical Overview, Geography, Language</b>	<b>R1</b>
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- M **[R1]** Country Overview  
- Donald Clark, Culture and Customs of Korea (CCK, hereafter), Chapter 1: Story of the Korean People (pp.1-28)  
- Foundation Myth

- W Geography and Language

**2/5 [Book Review] Chang-rae Lee, Native Speaker**

<b>Week 3 (2/10, 12): Thoughts and Religions</b>	<b>R2</b>
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- M Religious Culture  
- CCK, Chapter 2: Thought and Religions (pp.29-60)

- W **[R2]** Encounters with the West and Christianity  
- Korean Repository, "Attack on the Top Knot"  
- Choi, Hyaeweol, "An American Concubine in Old Korea: Missionary Discourse on Gender, Race, and Modernity"

**2/12 [Quiz] Map Quiz**

**Part II: Major Experience in Twentieth Century**

<b>Week 4 (2/17, 19): Changing and Constructing Meanings</b>	<b>R3</b>
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- M **[R3]** Hanbok, Korean Clothing: Meanings and Practice  
- Lynn, Hyung Gu, "Fashioning Modernity: Changing Meaning of Clothing in Colonial Korea"

- W Korean Family and Life Events  
- CCK, Chapter 5: Daily Life and Folkways (pp.91-118); Chapter 8: Gender, Marriage, and the Lives of Korean Women (pp.157-178)

**2/19 [CR] Report on Individual or Group**

<b>Week 5 (2/24, 26): Korean Diaspora</b>	<b>R4-5</b>
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- M **[R4]** Korean Americans, its Place along the Racial Line in the U.S.  
- Yoon, In-jin, "Korean American Experience: Ethnic Mobilization as a Mode of Incorporation" (2001)

- Min, Pyong Gap, "The Korean Community in New York," Changes and Conflincts: Korean Immigrant Families in New York

W [R5] Korean culture, images, representations in the U.S.

2/24 [CR] Topic and Project Title DUE

2/26 [Quiz] Identification Quiz #1

### Part III: Everyday Life and Culture

<b>Week 6 (3/3, 5): Consumption of Tradition and the Modern</b>		<b>R6</b>
M	Cultural Celebrations and Festivals	
W	[R6] Koreans as Consumers - Bak, Sangmee, "Negotiating National and Transnational Identities through Consumption Choices: Hamburgers, Espresso, and Mobile Technologies among Koreans"	
3/5	[Book Review] Catherine Chung, <u>Forgotten Country</u>	
<b>Week 7 (3/10, 3/12): Food and Housing</b>		<b>R7-8</b>
M	[R7] Hansik (Korean Food) and Han'ok (Korean House) - Lee, Kyou Jin and Cho Mi Sook, "The Evolution of Bulgogi over the Past 100 years" - KIC, "Living Space: From Hanok to Apartment Houses and Back Again" (pp.212-219); "Four Seasons at the Dinner Table" (pp.220-228)	
W	[R8] Korean Food as an Emerging Hallyu: [Film Screening] <i>Le Grand Chef</i> (2007)	
<b>Week 8 (3/17, 19): SPRING BREAK</b>		
<b>Week 9 (3/24, 26): Korean Arts, Dance and Music</b>		<b>R9</b>
M/W	Artistic Tradition and Contemporary Artists - CCK, Chapter 3: Arts and Literature (pp.61-80); Chapter 4: Performing Arts (pp.81-90)	
W	[R9] Contemporary Korean Artists - Kim, Jung-rak, "Paik Nam June: The Artist Who Chose Diaspora"	
3/24	[Book Review] Maija Rhee-Devine, <u>Voices of Heaven</u>	
3/24	[CR] Progress Report DUE	
<b>Week 10 (3/31, 4/2): Cultural Codes</b>		<b>R10</b>
M	Jeong, Chemyon, Han and Heung - KIC, "Jeong – 'The Invisible Hug'" (pp.92-100); "Competition" (101-111); "Chemyon, or Face" (112-119); "Han and Heung (pp. 120-127)	
W	[R10] Appearance Matters? Standard of Beauty and Medical Industry - Ruth Holliday & Hwang, Jo Elfving, "Gender, Globalization and Aesthetic Surgery in South Korea"	

## 4/2 [Quiz] Identification Quiz #2

## Part IV: Contemporary Popular Culture

<b>Week 11 (4/7, 9): Hallyu, Korean Wave I</b>	<b>R11-12</b>
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- M [R11] Korean Cinema  
 - KIC, Chapter 21: Cinema: Boom, Bust, and Brilliance (pp. 229-239)  
 - Jin, Dal Yong, "Cultural politics in Korea's contemporary films under neoliberal globalization"

- W [R12] [Film Screening] *Masquerade* (2012)

## 4/9 [CR] Visual file and written essay DUE

<b>Week 12 (4/14, 16): Hallyu, the Korean Wave II</b>	<b>R13</b>
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- M [R13] Korean Popular Music  
 - Mark Russell, "The Music Mogul" from *Pop Goes Korea* 133-165  
 - Park, Gil-sang, "Manufacturing Creativity: Production, Performance, and Dissemination of K-Pop"

- W Student Presentations #1

<b>Week 13 (4/21, 23): Hallyu, the Korean Wave III</b>	<b>R14</b>
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- W [R14] Korean Historical Drama and Online Game World  
 - Ho Swee Lin, "Old Texts, New Desires: How the Korean Television Drama Daejanggeum Evokes Reflexivity, Renewal and Resistance among Japanese Women"  
 - Leo Sang-Min Whang, "Online Game Dynamics in Korean Society: Experiences and Lifestyles in the Online World"

- W Guest Speakers: Min Song & Derek Kim (Symposium: "Marvels and Monsters" @Wang Center)

<b>Week 14 (4/28, 30): Future of Korean Culture</b>	<b>R15</b>
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- M [R15] Future of Korean Culture  
 - CCK, Chapter 9: Greater Korea: Looking Ahead (179-184)  
 - KIC, "More Than K-Pop" (pp. 240-249)  
 - KIC: "Multicultural Korea" (pp. 271-278)

- W Student Presentations #2

## 4/28 [Quiz] Identification Quiz #3

<b>Week 15 (5/ 5, 7): Presentations</b>
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- M Student Presentations #3  
 W Student Presentations #4

<b>Week 16 FINAL EXAM: 5/13, Tuesday (5:30-8:00PM) (Location: TBA)</b>
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