

**SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY**

Course:	<b>Ph.D.</b>
Course No:	<b>EA630</b>
Course Title:	<b>Introduction to Korean Culture and Society</b>
Course Type:	<b>Optional</b>
Semester:	<b>Monsoon</b>
Course Teacher & Contact Details:	Name: Dr Hriday Narayan Professor, Centre for East Asian Studies Room No.: 360, SIS-I Email: <a href="mailto:hridayna@gmail.com">hridayna@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:hridayn@jnu.ac.in">hridayn@jnu.ac.in</a>
Credits:	<b>2</b>
Contact Hours:	<b>2 hours/week</b>

**Course Statement**

The influence of prevailing cultures and identities on power dynamics within the realm of international relations can lead to disparities in privilege and power. Culture and identity, which define nation-state interactions, priorities, and power dynamics, are multidimensional in international politics. In addition, area studies have long emphasized the role of culture in determining how people view and react to global events. While cultural diplomacy can assist in building and supporting working relationships between countries, it is often considered secondary to the more complex issues of laws and treaties, bilateral talks, multilateral frameworks, and military capability.

This course explores the political and cultural history of the Korean Peninsula within the Northeast Asia framework. It will examine historical events and developments in Korean culture, from ancient dynasties to the current nation.

The course aims to introduce students to the fundamental elements of Korean culture developed at the crossroads of East Asia. The challenge is to identify the salient patterns of cultural construction in the major aspects of history, rites and ceremonies, thoughts and beliefs, and performative behavior among the Koreans, ancient and modern. Such a task becomes particularly significant in studying Korean culture, which has evolved into a uniquely artistic, politically

resilient, and socio-economically dynamic existence in today's global community in nearly five millennia.

### **Course Objectives**

1. Lectures will provide an interpretive framework for the textbooks' materials. Class discussions will help students interact with each other by analyzing primary materials, scholarly work, and media coverage.
2. Several vital concepts shape communication and culture. These include communication competence, high- versus low-context cultures, individualism versus collectivism, and cultural imperatives (peace, economic, technological, self-awareness, and ethical).
3. Describe the importance of cultural competence in the policy-making process for communicating in a globalized world.

### **Learning Outcomes**

1. A critical analysis of historical narratives and knowledge of the evolution of Korean history and culture.
2. Critically examine the historical and social formation of categories such as "race" and "ethnicity" and their impact on numerous aspects of human life, mainly how such constructs result in systematic disparities between the dominant and the marginalized in Korean society.
3. Outline how patterns of migration, immigration, and diaspora emerge from economic and social changes, including how such patterns get expressed in new social formations and cultural activities.
4. Present examples of how cultural or community factors may affect work in the sciences, technology, and health care.

### **Evaluation Methods**

- Class Participation/Discussion- 10%
- Mid-term Exam- 20%

- Final-term Exam- 50%
- Term Paper (10-15 pages) 20%

The SIS Research Manual should be used as a guide for written assignments.

Available at [https://www.jnu.ac.in/sites/default/files/SIS\\_Research\\_Manual\\_0.pdf](https://www.jnu.ac.in/sites/default/files/SIS_Research_Manual_0.pdf)

Students must maintain high academic integrity, including avoiding copying and plagiarism.

Refer to the SIS Research Manual for details on plagiarism and research ethics.

### **Course Outline**

1. Orientation- Introduction to the course
2. What is culture?
  - a) Definition of culture
  - b) Basic Culture theories
  - b) Type and features of culture
3. Historical Overview of Korean Culture and Society
  - a) Historical background of Korea
  - b) Key concepts and approaches in the study of Korean culture
4. Traditional Korean Culture
  - a) History of Confucianism in Korea
  - b) Confucianism and its impact on Korean society
  - c) Traditional Korean music and dance
5. Religion and Philosophy
  - a) Buddhism, Confucianism, and Christianity in Korea
  - b) Shamanism and folk beliefs
  - c) Contemporary religious landscape in Korea
6. Modernization and Social Change
  - a) Colonialism and its effects on Korean society
  - b) Modernization movements in Korea
  - c) Social stratification and class dynamics
  - d) Gender roles and family structure in contemporary Korea

## 7. Korean Language and Literature

- a) Development of the Korean language
- b) Major works of Korean literature
- c) Language as a Cultural Identity

## 8. Korean Popular Culture

- a) Korean cinema: history and prominent directors
- b) Hallyu, K-pop and its global impact
- c) Korean fashion and beauty trends

## Readings

### 1. What is culture?

#### Essential Readings:

- Alfred Louis Kroeber (2018), *Culture: A Critical Review of Concepts and Definitions*, London: Forgotten Books.
- Ruth Benedict (2006), *Patterns of Culture*, Houghton: Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.
- Clifford Geertz (2017), *The Interpretation of Cultures*, New York: Basic Books.

#### Recommended Readings:

- John Storey (2021), *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction*, London: Routledge Publications.
- Geert Hofstede, Gert Jan Hofstede, and Michael Minkov (2010), *Cultures and Organizations: Software of the Mind*, New York: McGraw Hill Publication.

### 2. Historical Overview of Korean Culture and Society

#### Essential Readings:

- Youna Kim (2016), *The Routledge Handbook of Korean Culture and Society*, London: Routledge.
- Simon Winchester (2005), *Korea: A Walk Through the Land of Miracles*, New York: Harper Perennial.

- Michael Breen (2004), *The Koreans: Who They Are, What They Want, Where Their Future Lies*, New York: St. Martin's Griffin.
- Keith Pratt and Richard Rutt (1999), *Korea: A Cultural and Historical Dictionary*, New York: Routledge.
- Rim, Sang Jong (1979), *An outline of Korean culture*, Pyongyang, Korea: Foreign Languages Pub. House.
- Youna Kim (2023), *Introducing Korean Popular Culture*, New York: Routledge.

### **3. Traditional Korean Culture**

#### **Essential Readings:**

- Ha, Tae Hung (1968), *Guide to Korean culture*, Seoul, Yonsei University Press.
- Richard J. Pearson (edited volume, 1975), *The traditional culture and society of Korea*, Prehistory: papers of the International Conference on Traditional Korean Culture and Society, in *International Conference on Traditional Korean Culture and Society, University of Hawaii, 1971*.
- Chun Shin-Yong, (general editor, 1974), *Folk culture in Korea*, Seoul, Korea: International Cultural Foundation.
- Chun Shin-yong (general editor, 1974), *Buddhist culture in Korea*, Seoul, Korea: International Cultural Foundation.

#### **Recommended Readings:**

- Chongho Kim (2019), *Korean Shamanism: The Cultural Paradox*, New York: Routledge.
- Joe, Wanne J. (1972), *Traditional Korea, a cultural history*, Seoul, Chungang University Press.
- Richard W.L. Guisso and Chai-shin Yu (1988), *Shamanism: the spirit world of Korea*, California: Asian Humanities Press.

### **4. Religion and Philosophy**

#### **Essential Readings:**

- Choe, Min-hong (1980), *A modern history of Korean philosophy*, Seoul: Seong Moon Sa.
- Chang, Pyong-gil (1974), *Religion*, Seoul: Korean Overseas Information Service.
- Grayson, James H. (1989), *Korea: A Religious History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Kim, Yong Choon (1978), *The Chondogyo concept of man: an essence of Korean thought*, Seoul: Pan Korea Book Corp.
- Ro, Young-chan (1989), *The Korean neo-Confucianism of Yi Yulgok*, Albany: State University of New York Press.

- Grayson, James Huntley (1985), *Early Buddhism and Christianity in Korea: a study in the emplantation of religion*, Leiden: E.J. Brill.
- Baker, Don (2002), "Hananim, Hanunim, Hanullim, and Hanollim: The construction of Terminology for Korean Monotheism." *The Review of Korean Studies* 5:1 (June 2002): 105-131.

**Recommended Readings:**

- Choi, Joon-Sik (2009), *The Development of Three-Religions-are-One Principle from China to Korea*, Seoul: Jimoondang.
- Choi, Min-hong (1984), "Contemporary Developments Since 1945 Korean Philosophy." *Hanguk ch'olhak yongu* 14 (1984): 223-238.
- Choi, Min-hong (1987), "The Root and Philosophy of Han." In *Proceedings of the Eighth International Symposium on Asian Studies, 1986, Vol. II*, Hong Kong: Asian Research Service, 1987.
- Grayson, James H. (1995), "Dynamic Complementarity: Korean Confucianism and Christianity." In Richard H. Roberts, ed. *Religion and the Transformations of Capitalism: Comparative Approaches*, London: Routledge.
- Kang, Wi Jo (1980), "Indigenous Tradition of Korean Religions." *Shinhak nondan* 14 (1980): 189-219.

**5. Modernization and Social Change**

**Essential Readings:**

- John E. Turner [et al.] (1993), *Villages astir: community development, tradition, and change in Korea*, Westport, Conn.: Praeger.
- Changsoo Lee [edit.] (1981), *Modernization of Korea and the impact of the West*, Los Angeles: East Asian Studies Center, University of Southern California.
- Whang, In-Joung (1981), *Management of rural change in Korea: The Saemaul Undong*, Seoul: Seoul National University Press.
- Steinberg, David I. (1989), *The Republic of Korea: economic transformation and social change*, Boulder: Westview Press.
- James A. Beckford (edit., 1986), *New religious movements and rapid social change*, London: Sage Publications; Paris, France: UNESCO.
- Jacobs, Norman (1985), *The Korean Road to modernization and development*, Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- Eder, Norman R. (1995), *Poisoned prosperity: development, modernization, and environmental tragedy in South Korea*, Armonk, New York: M.E. Sharpe.
- Kwon, Soonwon (1993), *Social policy in Korea: challenges and responses*, Seoul: Korea Development Institute.

### **Recommended Readings:**

- Ravenholt, Albert (1980), *Rural mobilization for modernization in South Korea*, Hanover, NH: American Universities Field Staff.
- Hur, Sonja Vegdahl (1998), *Culture shock! Korea*, Singapore: Times Books International.
- Yi, Kyu-tae (1970), *Modern transformation of Korea*, Seoul: Sejong Pub. Co.
- Lee, Won Sul (1986), *Amid a gigantic transition*, Seoul: Voice Pub. House.
- Han, Gil Soo (1995), *Social sources of church growth: Korean churches in the homeland and overseas*, Lanham: University Press of America.

## **6. Korean Language and Literature**

### **Essential Readings:**

- Peter H. Lee (2003), *A History of Korean Literature*, Cambridge University Press.
- David R. McCann (2000), *Early Korean Literature: Selections and Introductions*, New York: Columbia University Press.
- Mi Sook Ko (2016), *The History of Korean Literature*, Literature Translation Institute of Korea. (Translated by Michael J. Pettid and Kil Cha)
- Peter H. Lee (1990), *Modern Korean Literature: An Anthology*, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.
- Kevin O'Rourke (translator, 2006), *The Book of Korean Poetry: Songs of Shilla and Koryo*, Iowa: University of Iowa Press.
- Ki-Moon Lee and S. Robert Ramsey (2012), *A History of the Korean Language*, London: Cambridge University Press.

### **Recommended Readings:**

- Lopez Velazquez, L. (2021), *Hangeul Hakhoe: the society that protected Hangeul and preserved Korean identity*, Retrieved from <https://www.korea.net/TalkTalkKorea/Korean/community/community/CMN0000013977>
- Antos, B. (2021), *Saving a language: the Korean dictionary comes to life against tough odds*, Retrieved from <https://resource.rockarch.org/story/history-of-the-korean-hangul-dictionary-rockefeller-foundation/>
- Grunow, T. R. (2020), *Cultivating settler colonial space in Korea: public works and the urban environment under Japanese rule*, Retrieved from <https://ijkh.khistory.org/journal/view.php?number=523>

## **7. Korean Popular Culture**

**Essential Readings:**

- Pang, Hwan Ju (1988), *National culture of Korea*, Pyongyang: Foreign Languages Pub. House.
- Dal Yong Jin (2023), *Understanding the Korean Wave: Transnational Korean Pop Culture and Digital Technologies*, New York: Routledge.
- Kyung Hyun Kim, Youngmin Choe (edits.) (2014), *The Korean Popular Culture Reader*, Durham: Duke University Press.
- Korean Culture and Information Service (2011), *The Korean Wave: A New Pop Culture Phenomenon*, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.
- Youna Kim (2019), *South Korean Popular Culture and North Korea*, New York: Routledge.
- Anthony Y. H. Fung (2017), *The Korean Wave: Evolution, Fandom, and Transnationality*, Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books.

**Recommended Readings:**

- Sunny Yoon (2023), *Social Media and the Cultural Politics of Korean Pop Culture in East Asia*, New York: Routledge.
- Youjeong Oh (2018), *Pop City: Korean Popular Culture and the Selling of Place*, Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press.
- Hark Joon Lee, Dal Yong Jin, Kyong Yoon Yong Jin (2021), *K-Pop Idols: Popular Culture and the Emergence of the Korean Music Industry*, Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books.
- Jin, Dal Young (2023), *Understanding the Korean Wave: Transnational Korean pop culture and digital technologies*, New York: Routledge.

**Other Textbook Sources:**

- Nahm, Andrew C. (1993), *Introduction to Korean History and Culture*, Seoul: Hollym International.
- Huhm, Halla Pai (1980), *Kut: Korean Shamanist Rituals*, Seoul: Hollym International Corp., 1980
- Lee, Du-Hyun (1990), "Korean Shamans: role-playing through trance possession," in Richard Schechner and Willa Appel Eds., *By Means of Performance*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Buswell, R. E. (1992), *The Zen monastic experience: Buddhist practice in contemporary Korea*, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press



- Jeong, H. (2011). Story of alcoholic drink by Professor Jeong Hun Bae [정헌배 교수의 술나라 이야기]. Seoul: Yeda.
- Koo, John (1992), "The Term of Address 'You' in South Korea Today." *Korea Journal* 32: (1), 1992.

**External Links:**

- <http://www.everyculture.com/Ja-Ma/South-Korea.html#ixzz35hU0fdSe>
- <http://www.everyculture.com/Ja-Ma/South-Korea.html#ixzz35hX37u2G>
- <http://www.korea4expats.com/article-business-practices-etiquette.html>
- <http://www.everyculture.com/wc/Japan-to-Mali/South-Koreans.html#ixzz365eMFpLz>
- <http://www.worldbusinessculture.com/Business-in-South-Korea.html>
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/education-25187993>
- <http://www.paca4u.com/journal%20alabama%20page.htm>
- <http://www.pbs.org/hiddenkorea/culture.htm>
- <http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/south-korea-country-profile.html>
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ks.html>
- <http://koreanfood.about.com/od/koreanfoodbasics/tp/Korean-Table-Manners.htm>
- <http://www.everyculture.com/Ja-Ma/South-Korea.html#ixzz35JS1JVFR>
- <http://www.everyculture.com/Ja-Ma/South-Korea.html#ixzz35JQINmL6>
- <http://www.everyculture.com/Ja-Ma/South-Korea.html#ixzz35JREI7Ws>
- <http://depts.washington.edu/pfes/PDFs/KoreanCultureClue.pdf>
- <http://www.stanford.edu/group/ethnoger/korean.html>