

AEAK170 Korea: Its culture & heritage

Spring 2011

Call Number 6651 / 3 credits

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Office Hour: Tuesday and Friday 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. or by an appointment

Class meeting time & location: MW 2:45 p.m. – 4:05 p.m. (ED125)**General Education Credit:**This course fulfills the General Education Categories for **Regions Beyond Europe**.**Characteristics of all General Education Courses**

1. General Education courses offer introductions to the central topics of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields.
2. General Education courses offer explicit rather than tacit understandings of the procedures, practices, methodology and fundamental assumptions of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields.
3. General Education courses recognize multiple perspectives on the subject matter.
4. General Education courses emphasize active learning in an engaged environment that enables students to be producers as well as consumers of knowledge.
5. General Education courses promote critical inquiry into the assumptions, goals, and methods of various fields of academic study; they aim to develop the interpretive, analytic, and evaluative competencies characteristic of critical thinking.

Learning Objectives for General Education Regions Beyond Europe Courses

Courses in the General Education category of Regions Beyond Europe enable students to demonstrate:

1. knowledge of the distinctive features (e.g. history, institutions, economies, societies, cultures) of one region beyond Europe or European North America
2. an understanding of the region from the perspective of its people(s)
3. an ability to analyze and contextualize cultural and historical materials relevant to the region
4. an ability to locate and identify distinctive geographical features of the region

1. Course Objectives:

This is a survey course that is designed to introduce students to important elements of Korean culture. This course aims to identify a unique pattern of cultural construction of Korea in the major aspects of Korea's pre-modern and modern history, language, art, and philosophy/religion. The course will progress chronologically from the ancient past to the present, looking at Korea in a variety of ways: historically, anthropologically, religiously, philosophically, artistically, musically, politically, etc. Because of the broad nature of the topic, the core curriculum will be defined by the lectures themselves, with the readings providing supplemental information. Hence attendance is mandatory and will be taken daily to ensure all classes are attended. Films, videos, and other multimedia materials will be used in conjunction with lectures and class discussions to promote students' understanding of the basics of Korean culture and heritage.

Prerequisites: None. This is a survey course open to anyone.

2. Required Textbooks (available at Campus bookstore)

1. Cumings, Bruce (2005). *Korea's Place in the Sun*. NY: W. W. Norton Co. ISBN: 0-393-31681-5 (available at Campus bookstore & MaryJane Book store)
2. All other required readings will be made available online via the library's Electronic Reserve (ERes).

3. Important Class Policy

1. This course is **lecture-intensive**. The reading is meant to be supplemental, not the core of course material. Therefore, attendance is essential.
2. **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes. Attendance will be taken. *If you fail to sign the attendance sheet (passed around at the start of each class meeting), you will be considered absent for that day. Two absences* are allowed without penalty. An additional two class cuts beyond the allotted two absences will result in a "plus"/"minus" reduction in the final grade. In other words, if you cut four classes and earn a "B" in the course, your final grade will be B-; six class cuts would get you a C+, and so on.
3. **Make-ups** for missed exams will be given only if the absence was due to a *documented* medical or personal emergency, which is confirmed in writing (to me) by the Office of the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. Do *not* call or email me *after* an exam and tell me you were too sick to take the test! Late think papers will not be accepted for *any reason*.
4. **Academic Integrity:** The discovery of any cheating (including plagiarism or shared work of any kind) on an exam or written assignment will result in (1) immediate expulsion from the course with a failing grade; and (2) a report to appropriate SUNY officials. Appeals may be made through appropriate channels.
5. **How to do well in this course:** (1) carefully read and prepare reading assignments *before* class; (2) attend class regularly and take detailed notes; (3) actively participate in classroom discussions (this means raise your hand and try to say something intelligent!).

4. Testing and Grading:

Grading will be based on the following criteria:

Attendance/participation	20%
Mid-term exam I:	20%
Mid-term exam II:	20%
Final Exam (accumulative):	35%
Film Reaction Paper:	5%

This syllabus is a non-negotiable contract. I agree to teach the topics listed below, and to grade you on the criteria listed above. I consider a grade of "Incomplete" to be for emergencies (death in the family, extreme illness, etc.), *not* for students who fail to plan ahead. **I do not curve grades. I do not give extra credit assignments.** My grading scale is as follows: 93-100%=A; 90-92.9%=A-; 87-89%=B+; 83-86%=B; 80-82%=B-; 77-79%=C+; 73-76%=C; 70-72%=C-; 67-69%=D+; 63-66%=D; 60-62%=D-; 0-59%=E.

If you want to check on your performance at any point in the semester, feel free to come to my office and we'll run through the numbers. If there are extenuating circumstances that you anticipate will unduly affect your grade, **it is your responsibility to speak with me IN ADVANCE.**

5. Tentative course schedule (subject to vary)

	Date	Topic
1	1/19	Introduction to the course
2	1/24	Basic fact of Korea: Geography/Climate (“Chungsun Arirang”)
3	1/26	People/ Language (“Finding the root of the Korean race”)
4	1/31	Buddhism in Korea (“Korean temple”) & Three Kingdom era
5	2/2	Confucianism in Korea (“Chonghak village”) & The Unified Shilla period
6	2/7	Koryo Celadon (“Celadon”) & Tripitaka Koreana & The Koryo period
7	2/9	Korean food (Kimchi and Bulgogi)/ Korean pottery (“pottery”)
8	2/14	Midterm I
9	2/16	Traditional Korean performance/music (“Samul’noli”) & Mask dance
	2/21 – 2/26	No Class (Winter break)
10	2/28	Collectivism/Individualism & Ingroup/outgroupness
11	3/2	Hangul (“Hangeul: The birth of great letters” Part I) & The Chosun period
12	3/7	Hanbok & Opening of Korea (“Hangeul: The birth of great letters” Part II & III)
13	3/9	Korean architecture (“Chang’Duk Palace”) / folk painting
14	3/14	Korean traditional sports: Taekwondo (“Taekwondo”) / Ssierum
15	3/16	Korean folk belief and religion (“Jangsung”)
16	3/21	Midterm II
17	3/23	Division of Korea & North Korean issues
18	3/28	Miracle of Han river: International and cultural factors
19	3/30	Hallyu “Korean pop culture”
20	4/4	Film (TBA)
21	4/6	Film (TBA)
22	4/11	Korean values and communication : Old and New
23	4/13	The Korean Family system (“Life of Korean I”)
	4/18 – 4/25	No class/spring break
24	4/27	Korean-American issues (“Life of Korean II”)
25	5/2	Review
	5/9* (Monday)	Final exam (accumulative) 330pm-530pm