AEAK170 Korea: Its culture & heritage

Call Number 9346 / 3 credits

Professor: Dr. Andrew S. Byon

Associate Professor & Chair
East Asian Studies Dept. – HU 210
State University of New York at Albany
Albany, NY 12222
E-mail: abyon@albany.edu
Office Hour: Tuesday and Friday 2:30 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.
http://www.albany.edu/eas/byon.shtml

Class meeting time & location: MWF 1:40 p.m. – 2:35 p.m. (HU129)

General Education Information:
This course fulfills the General Education Categories of **International Perspectives** and **Humanities**.

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.

This course fulfills the general education category **International Perspectives** by meeting learning objectives focused on a “region beyond Europe.” Such courses 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.

This course also fulfills the **Humanities** general education category. Humanities courses teach students to analyze and interpret texts, ideas, artifacts, and discourse systems, and the human values, traditions, and beliefs that they reflect. Depending on the discipline, humanities courses will enable students to demonstrate some or all of the following:

1. an understanding of the objects of study as expressions of the cultural contexts of the people who created them;
2. an understanding of the continuing relevance of the objects of study to the present and to the world outside the university;
3. an ability to employ the terms and understand the conventions particular to the discipline; an ability to analyze and assess the strengths and weaknesses of ideas and positions along with the reasons or arguments that can be given for and against them;
4. an understanding of the nature of the texts, artifacts, ideas, or discourse of the discipline and of the assumptions that underlie this understanding, including those relating to issues of tradition and canon.
1. **Course Objectives:**
This is a survey course that is designed to introduce students to important elements of Korean culture and heritage. 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/introductory nature of the topic and given the size of class, class will be primarily lecture-based, although questions are encouraged at all times. Hence attendance is mandatory and will be taken to ensure all classes are attended. Films, videos, and other multimedia materials will be used in conjunction with lectures to promote students' understanding of the basics of Korean culture and heritage. This course is taught in English; no knowledge of Korean is necessary.

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

2. **Required Textbooks**
- Required readings available on Blackboard

3. **Testing and Grading:**
Grading will be based on the following criteria:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation &amp; attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A film reaction paper</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam 2</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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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.** The grading scale is as follows: 93-100%=A; 90-92%=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 the instructor’s office and I'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 the instructors IN ADVANCE.**

4. **Tentative course schedule (subject to vary)**

**Week #1**
8/29, 31, 9/1  Orientation/ Geography and Climate
- Reading: “The country” (pp. 10-20)

**Week #2**
9/5  (No class- Labor Day)
9/7, 9  Korean People/ Language
- Reading: “People and Language” (pp. 40-47)
- Reading: “The Korean language” (pp. 1-13)

**Week #3**
9/12, 14, 16  Chronology of Korea
• Reading: Korean Chronology “Arts of Korea” (pp. 11-58)
• Reading “Taekwondo” (pp. 92-105)

Week #4
9/19, 21, 23  Buddhism/ Shamanism
• Reading: “The Korean belief and religion” (pp. 424-438)
• Reading: Shamanism in Korea
• Reading: The origin of Buddhism (pp. 16-72)
• Reading: Korean Buddhism (pp. 219-234)

Week#5
9/26, 28, 30  Confucianism
• Reading: “Customs and Traditions” (p. 442-449)
• Reading: “Confucianism in Korea”
• Reading: “Hanbok” (pp. 12-25)

Week#6
10/3 (No class- Rosh Hashanah)
10/5, 7  Korean traditional arts and music
• Reading: “Korean Arts”
• Reading: “Pottery” (pp. 200-215)

Week#7
10/12 (No class- Yom Kippur)
10/10, 14  Korean literatures (pansori, mask dance, hangul)
• Reading: Korean Literature
• Reading: “Mask dance” (pp. 78-91)

Week#8
10/17  Midterm

10/19, 21  Contact with the West
• Reading: Korea in the age of imperialism 186-1910 (pp. 225-263)
• Reading: “Kimchi” (pp. 26-43)

Week#9
10/24, 26, 28  The economic development of South Korea
• Reading: “South Korea: From Poverty to prosperity” (pp. 373-404)

Week#10
10/31, 11/2, 4  Democratic movement of South Korea
• Reading: “Post-liberation Korea”

Week#11
11/7, 9, 11  Korea’s place in the world (1910-1953)/ North Korean issues
• Reading: “CH8. Nation of the Sun King: North Korea, 1953-Present” (pp. 404-447)

Week#12
11/14, 16, 18  **Contemporary Korea: Changing Korea**
- Reading: “Collectivism vs individualism” (pp. 24-52)
- Reading: “Rites of passage” (pp. 342-355)
- “Oriental medicine”

**Week#13**
11/23, 25  No class- Thanksgiving break

11/21  **“Hallyu” (Korean pop culture)**
- Reading: Hallyu

**Week#14**
11/28, 30, 12/2  **Korean culture and media**
- Reading: Ch18 “Advertisement in Korea”

**Week#15**
12/5, 7, 9  **Korean American Issues**
- Reading: “America’s Koreans” (pp. 448-469)”

**Week#16**
12/12  Summary/ review (the last day of instruction)

**Final Examination:** Wednesday, December 14th 3:30 PM-5:30 PM (in our usual classroom).
[http://www.albany.edu/registrar/registrar_assets/Fall_2016_Final_Examination_Schedule.pdf](http://www.albany.edu/registrar/registrar_assets/Fall_2016_Final_Examination_Schedule.pdf)