Instructor: Injeong Hwang (ihwang3@albany.edu)

Class: MW 02:45-04:05PM HU0108

Office hour: MW 1:30-2:30 (HU__) and by appointment

Course description

The Republic of Korea, a small country in the East Asia, has not been recognized as a major influential country in current international affairs. However, Korean pop culture, such as music and drama, has attracted global attention since the 1990s. How can we understand the creation of the powerful and influential pop contents in the context of late development of Korea? In this course, we will explore the modern socio-political history of Korea from 50s to the late 80s and link it with the development of the pop culture in more recent times.

No prior knowledge of Korea or the Korean language is required.

Objectives

1) To be able to understand the meanings and consequences of the main events of the modern history of Korea

2) To be able to explain process of democratization and economic development of Korea

3) To be able to link the socio-political development of Korea and expansion of its pop culture around the world

4) To be able to analyze the historical root of the Korean pop-culture regarding the relationship between Korea and major and minor players of the world politics (US, China, and Japan, South East Asia, and North Korea).

5) To be able to analyze why the Korean pop-culture has been so popular among foreign consumers – focusing on both domestic factors (Korea’s political economic development) and international factors (globalization)

Readings
*Books to purchase:


*All the other assigned chapters (including the books below) and articles will be uploaded via Blackboard*


**Evaluation:**

1. **Weekly Threads and Commentaries (blackboard): 20%**

   You will write a short thread once a week, by end of Sunday, about the assigned reading materials. There is no limitation on format and length. BUT Your WTC should include 1) a brief summary of the reading; 2) a description of the part that you liked or disliked the most and why; 3) and the question that you had while you read. You are welcome to read your colleagues’ thread and leave comment. Every five comments you made on your colleagues’ threads will give you 1 bonus point on your WTC grade.

2. **Multiple Choice Pop Quiz: 10%**

   You will take five multiple choice pop quizzes throughout the semester. The aim of this weekly quiz is to see if you are on the track in terms of reading and the structure of the course.

3. **Short presentation: 10%**

   Each student will give 15-minutes presentation on a specific topic of their choice related to Korean culture. In the second week of the class, instructor will give the list of the topics. Presenters need to meet with instructor by two weeks prior to the presentation and discuss about contents of their presentations.

4. **Participation: 20%**

   This course is designed for motivated students to attend all lectures, do all the readings, and ask questions when they don’t understand something. Preparation and attendance is required. Your instructor finds people entering and leaving the classroom during lecture to be very unpleasant and distracting. If you know that you must leave early on a given day, please let me know before class. Repeat offenders will find their semester grades reduced.

   Active participation in discussions is required. You are encouraged to raise your hand during lecture
and ask questions, add comments, or ask for something you didn’t understand to be repeated or clarified. Cell phones, beepers, laptops and other appliances that make noise are not welcome in the class.

5. In-Class Midterm: 20%

You will have midterm-review a week before midterm day.

6. Final paper: 20% (Due on December 19, Monday)

Each student is expected to produce a research paper of 6-8 pages (12pt, double spaced, approximately 1800-2000 words). The topic of the paper is which factor or combination of factors explain the global expansion of Korean pop-culture best. You can write your paper based on the topics of the class but you are more than welcome to add new perspectives.

**Accommodating Disabilities**

**Policy Statement**

Reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with documented physical, sensory, systemic, cognitive, learning and psychiatric disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring accommodation, please notify the Director of Disabled Student Services (BA-120, 442-5490). That office will provide the course instructor with verification of your disability, and will recommend appropriate accommodations.

**How to find out more**

The University provides a great deal of information on the services it offers to disabled students which can be found on the [Disability Resource Center](http://library.albany.edu/usered/ncplaga/index.html) page.

**University Policies**

It is essential that students understand, appreciate and model the highest standards of academic integrity. The University’s policy regarding what constitutes plagiarism and the penalty is available at [http://www.albany.edu/eas/104/penalty.htm](http://www.albany.edu/eas/104/penalty.htm). There is also a useful tutorial available at the University library website that can clarify the issue and provide strategies and best practices to avoid it [http://library.albany.edu/usered/ncplaga/index.html](http://library.albany.edu/usered/ncplaga/index.html). Violations of academic integrity will be reported to the Office of Undergraduate Education and will result in failure of this course. If you are not sure the limits of borrowing someone else’s idea or acceptable team collaboration, please ask me.

**Class Schedule**

W1 (8/29, 8/31): “Introduction”
Part 1. Development of Modern Korean Pop-Culture

W2 (9/5 - no class, Labor day, 9/7) “Modernization (influence from Japan and the US)”

*Reading:
- Lie (2014), pp. 7-50 (SKIM: pp. 18-50)

W3 (9/12, 9/14) “Korean War and Pre-democratization Period”

*Reading:
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/korea_hickey_01.shtml
- Hong (2014), Ch. 7 When Korea Banded Rock ‘n’ Roll

W4 (9/19, 9/21) “Democratization 1”

*Reading:
- Heo & Roehrig (2010), Ch 2. From Dictatorship to Democracy

W5 (9/26, 9/28) “Democratization 2”

*Reading:
- Heo & Roehrig (2010), Ch3. Democratic Consolidation and Social Change

W6 (10/3– no class, Rosh Hashanah), 10/5 “Competitive Culture”

*Reading:
- Hong (2014), Ch 8. The Lean, Mean, Stark-Making K-Pop Machine

Part 2. Expansion of Korean Pop-Culture
W7 (10/10, 10/12 – no class, Yom Kippur) “Economic development, export-oriented economy 1”
*Reading:
  - Heo & Roehrig (2010), Ch4. Economic Development and Financial Crisis

W8 (midterm point, 10/17, 10/19) “Economic development, export-oriented economy 2”
*Reading: TBA

W9 (10/24, 10/26) “Governmental support”
*Reading:
  - Kim (2013), Ch11. Cultural Policy and the Korean Wave: from material cultures to transnational consumerism

W10 (10/31, 11/2) “Korean Diaspora”
*Reading:

W11 (11/7, 11/9) “Internet and Media”
*Reading:
  - Kim (2013), Ch12. Re-worlding Culture: Youtube as a K-pop Interlocuter

Part 3. Other Important Issues
W12 (11/14, 11/16) “North Korea”
*Reading:
  - Kim (2013), Ch5. For the Eyes of North Koreans? Politics of Money and Class
  - Tudor (2013), Ch13. North Korea: Friend, Foe, or Foreigner?

W13 (11/21, 11/23 – no class, Thanksgiving day) “Immigrants in Korea”
*Reading: TBA

*Reading:

- Heo & Roehrig (2010), Ch7. The South Korea-US Alliance

W15 (12/5, 12/7): Mini presentation and feedback on final research paper

W16 (12/12 - LAST DAY OF CLASS): Review and Evaluation