I. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course surveys major themes in the study of Korean culture and heritage, giving attention to the origins and development of Korean nationalism. Drawing from multidisciplinary readings and primary sources, in history, literature, film, music, religious studies, anthropology, and government, the course offers a historical narrative of the social and cultural formation and transformation of Korean national identity, from the premodern era to the present. Topics include: evolving forms of Korea’s indigenous culture and national consciousness, foreign relations, domestic politics and intra-peninsular relations, civil society, religion, the arts, the national quest for independence, and the recent rise of the “Korean Wave.” Interwoven with these are the following major contextual themes: the Cold War, imperialism, colonialism, modernization, global Christianity, democratization, East Asian regionalism, and Korean-American relations.

Through this course, students who apply themselves can expect to gain a broad knowledge of Korea and of various challenges confronting Korea today. The class uses English-language translations of all sources. No knowledge of Korean is required.

This course satisfies requirements for the General Education categories of International Perspectives and Humanities.

General Education:

General Education courses:
1. offer explicit understandings of the procedures and practices of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields.
2. provide multiple perspectives on the subject matter, reflecting the intellectual and cultural diversity within and beyond the University.
3. emphasize active learning in an engaged environment that enables students to become producers as well as consumers of knowledge.
4. promote critical thinking about the assumptions, goals, and methods of various fields of academic study and the interpretive, analytic, and evaluative competencies central to intellectual development.

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 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;
4. 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;
5. 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.

II. COURSE POLICIES & REQUIREMENTS
Requirements of Class Participation and Classroom Decorum: Participation in classroom activities is an important requirement of the course. To demonstrate your engagement, you must conform to the following ground rules:
1. Arrive on time.
2. Refrain from leaving the room once class has begun, except in unavoidable emergencies.
3. Actively participate in class exercises and discussions.
4. Remove earphones and ear buds from your ears.
5. NO computers, tablets or phones are to be used during class unless specifically required.
6. Unauthorized reproduction of any course material or uploading it to any website is a violation of academic integrity.
7. Reading assignments must be completed before each class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Grading %</th>
<th>Dates (subject to change)</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Class Attendances &amp; Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Attendance will be taken every day</td>
<td>Students must inform the instructor prior to class if they need to miss a class. A student’s final grade in the class will be penalized by a third of a grade (e.g., from B to B-) after his or her fourth unexcused absence, and an additional third of a grade with each unexcused absence thereafter. If you must miss a class for medical reasons, please see the University at Albany Medical Excuse Policy: <a href="http://www.albany.edu/health_center/medicalexcuse.shtm">http://www.albany.edu/health_center/medicalexcuse.shtm</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2. Quizzes          | 20% | Quiz 1: 2/4  
|                    |     | Quiz 2: 2/25  
|                    |     | Quiz 3: 3/11  
|                    |     | Quiz 4: 4/8  
|                    |     | Quiz 5: 4/22  
|                    |     | Quiz 6: 5/6  
|                    |     | There will be a biweekly quiz covering assigned readings and lectures from the previous two weeks. See the date for each quiz on the left. |
| 3. Midterm Exam    | 20% | Wed, 3/13  
|                    |     | A one-hour midterm exam will take place in class. Alternatively, students may opt to select a creative project or presentation in class, based on consultation with instructor. |
| 4. Film reaction papers | 10% | 1st paper deadline: Mon, 2/11 @ 8 PM  
|                    |     | 2nd paper deadline: Wed, 5/1 @ 8 PM  
|                    |     | Students will be asked to write short reaction papers to Korean films/historical dramas that will be shown in class. Submit your paper as an email attachment with the file name, “yourlastname_170.doc(x),” to the instructor.  
|                    |     | For guidance on writing and citations, see https://www.albany.edu/eas/writing%20papers%20in%20east%20asian%20studies.pdf |
| 5. Final Exam      | 25% | Fri, 5/10, 3:30-5:30 PM  

Letter grades are assigned according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>below 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Work never turned in counts as a zero (0).

- Students must complete all work on time. No extensions, substitutions, make-ups, etc., will be allowed except in extremely unusual circumstances or serious illness (verified in writing by a doctor or relevant authority).
- There will be no extra-credit assignments and no grading curves. A grade of "Incomplete" can be considered only for absolute emergencies (death in the family, extreme illness, etc.).

**III. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

- I ask any student with a documented disability and needing academic accommodations or other adjustments to speak with me at the start of the semester. All discussions will remain confidential. For more information, please visit Disability Resource Center (http://www.albany.edu/disability/index.shtml).

**IV. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

- “Every student has the responsibility to become familiar with the standards of academic integrity at the University. Faculty members must specify in their syllabi information about academic integrity and may refer students to this policy for more information. Nonetheless, student claims of ignorance, unintentional error, or personal or academic pressures cannot be excuses for violation of academic integrity. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the standards and behaving accordingly, and UAlbany faculty are responsible for teaching, modeling and upholding them. Anything less undermines the worth and value of our intellectual work, and the reputation and credibility of the University at Albany degree.” (University’s Standards of Academic Integrity Policy, Fall 2013) http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html
V. READING MATERIALS
- No textbook required. All readings will be distributed via Blackboard or are available ONLINE for free.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to revision)

UNIT I. THE RISE OF ETHNIC NATIONALISM IN KOREA (Weeks 1-2)

Week 1: What is Korea?
Wed, 1/23: Myth of Tan’gun and the Construction of a “Korean Nation” (minjok)

Week 2: Korea between the Empires
Mon, 1/28: The Historical Roots of Korean Nationalism
Wed, 1/30: Japanese Colonization of Korea
  - Ch’oe, Lee, and de Bary, Sources of Korean Tradition, vol. 2, pp. 333-351 (The Nationalist Movement, 1910-1945)

Week 3: Traditional Korea
Mon, 2/4: Korean movie - part 1 NOTE: Quiz 1 (covering Weeks 1-2)
Wed, 2/6: Korean movie - part 2

UNIT II. KOREAN CULTURE AND NATIONAL IDENTITY (Weeks 4-7)

Week 4: Confucianism and Korean Modernity
Mon, 2/11: Confucianism and South Korea NOTE: 1st film reaction paper due
  - Watch YouTube on Korean Confucianism https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPSGxnMC3qw
Wed, 2/13: Confucianism and North Korea

Week 5: Women in Korea
Mon, 2/18: Korean Women and Christianity
Wed, 2/20: Class discussion: Women’s role in contemporary Korea

Week 6: Religions
Mon, 2/25: Korea’s Religious Traditions: Buddhism, Shamanism, Geomancy NOTE: Quiz 2 (covering Weeks 4-5)
  - Watch YouTube clip on:
    - Korean Shamanism
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3rRIXOSxog
Wed, 2/27: Why did Christianity in Korea spread so rapidly?
• Donald N. Clark, “Christianity in Modern Korea,” pp. 35-39.

Week 7: Korean Language/Cuisine/Arts
Mon, 3/4: Korean Hangul and food

Wed, 3/6: Korean traditional arts, music and fashion

Week 8 (MIDTERM WEEK)
Mon, 3/11: Midterm review NOTE: Quiz 3 (covering Weeks 6-7)
Wed, 3/13: Midterm Exam

WEEK 9 (Spring break: Sat, 3/16 - Fri, 3/22)
Mon, 3/18 – Spring recess
Wed, 3/20 – Spring recess

UNIT III. THE QUEST FOR NATIONAL AUTONOMY (Weeks 10-12)

Week 10, War and Division
• Michael Robinson, Korea’s Twentieth-Century Odyssey, pp. 100-120 (Ch. 5: “Liberation, Civil War, and Division”)

Wed, 3/27: Trauma of National Division
• Watch “Divided Families” documentary (50 min) on YouTube, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u670xNcC2Is

Week 11: North Korea and Juche (“self-reliance”) Ideology
Mon, 4/1: Autarkic Nationalism
• Ch’oe, Lee, and de Bary, Sources of Korean Tradition, vol. 2, pp. 419-425 (“Kim Ilsŏng and Chuch’e Thought in North Korea”)

Wed, 4/3: Peter Kwon in Germany for conference
• A documentary on North Korean defectors will be shown in class.

Week 12: Korean-American Relations
Mon, 4/8: South Korea’s Complex Alliance with the US NOTE: Quiz 4 (covering Weeks 10-11)

Wed, 4/10: Class discussion: Anti-Americanism in Korea

UNIT IV. MODERNIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT (Weeks 13-15)

WEEK 13: South Korea and “Miracle on the Han River”
Mon, 4/15: South Korea and Postwar Economic Modernization

WEEK 14: The Other Side of the Miracle: *Minjung* and the Rise of Civil Society in South Korea
Mon, 4/22: Korean movie – part 1  
**NOTE:** Quiz 5 (covering Weeks 12-13)
- Kristen Alice, “May 18, 1980: An eyewitness account of the Gwangju Massacre,”  

Wed, 4/24: Korean movie – part 2
- Hagen Koo, *Korean Workers: The Culture and Politics of Class Formation*, pp. 126-152 (Ch. 6: “Worker Identity and Consciousness”)

WEEK 15: North Korea Today
Mon, 4/29: Militarism and Failed Modernization

Wed, 5/1: International Isolation and Human Rights  
**NOTE:** 2nd film reaction paper due
- Watch YouTube Clip, “My Escape from North Korea” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdxPCeWw75k

UNIT V. KOREA AND THE WORLD TODAY (Week 16)

Mon, 5/6: Korean WAVE - A Global Phenomenon  
**NOTE:** Quiz 6 (covering Weeks 14-15)
- Hae-Joang Cho, “Reading the Korean Wave as a Sign of Global Shift,” pp. 147–82.

Wed, 5/8 (LAST DAY OF THE CLASS): Challenges for Reunification in the Korean Peninsula
Fri, 5/10: **FINAL EXAM**, 3:30–5:30PM
- See “Spring 2019 Final Examination Schedule”:
  https://www.albany.edu/registrar/registrar_assets/Spring_2019_Final_Examination_Schedule.pdf