이화여자대학교
EWHA WOMANS UNIVERSITY

Syllabus (2025-Winter)

Course Title	Korean Society and Gender	Course No.	11508
Credit	2 credits	Hours	30 Hours
Class Time Classroom	Mon to Fri Classroom TBA		
Instructor	Name Haelim Cho	Department	
	E-mail haelim.cho@ewha.ac.kr	Phone (02)3277-3656	
Office Hours Office Location	December 26, 2025~January 9, 2026 09:00~11:30 (with a break)		

I. Course Overview

1. Course Description

This is an introductory course into South Korea's gender relations in the developpment perspective. This class will introduce contemprary and historical gender relations of Korea and also indlude women's policies and programs. Students will have a chance to learn about basic gender concepts, how gender relations have evolved in the historical path of Korea and how various women's policies and law have affected the real lives of women and men in South Korea. By critically reviewing successful policies and programs as well as challenges in Korea students will gain insights into their respective societies which can provide meaningful reference for their respective countries. The course includes women's policies and programs from various sectors, gender relations in the realm of economic, education, employment, reproductive health and population, political, gender-based violence (GBV) and gender mainstreaming. The class will also discuss the recent conflict around gender issues.

Readings will be assigned to each topic which is strongly recommended to be completed prior to the lecture. Presentations will be prepared on the given topic by students and corresponding group discussion will be held in class to share ideas from various experiences and backgrounds. We also plan to visit a gender insitution or a cultural site to learn of real cases of gender policy and programs.

2. Prerequisites

None

3. Course Format

Lecture	Discussion/Presentation	Experiment/Practicum	Field Study	Other
60%	30%	%	10%	%

4. Course Objectives

- To learn about historical and contemporary gender relations in Korea and understand how gender relations have evolved in Korean society
- To learn about global gender treaties and conventions that have influenced Korea's gender policy and programs
- To learn about women's civil society engagement in advancing women's rights and laws and policy/programs for women
- To discuss the nature and reason behind the recent gender conflict in Korea
- To relate to one''s own country's gender issues

5. Evaluation Systems

☐ Relative evaluation ■ Absolute evaluation (for Ewha International Summer College students only) ☐ Others

Midterm Exam	Final Exam	Quizzes	Presentation	Projects	Assignments	Participation	Others
%	%	%	20%	60%	%	20%	%

II. Course Materials and Additional Readings

1. Required Materials

All readings will be shared on Cyber Campus

2. Supplementary Materials

3. Optional Additional Readings

III. Course Schedule

*This schedule is subject to change

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 1	(12/26)	Introduction to the course Introduction to basic concepts and terminology of gender
Day 2	(12/29)	Korean women in the past, present and future: culture and heritage (Please prepare paper and pen or colored pens) Requried readings: Chang, Pilwha. Korean Mothers, Daughters and Wives http://www.dcollection.net/handler/ewha/000000081268
Day 3	(12/30)	Basic Gender Concepts International Conventions and Treaties Required readings: Comstock, Audrey. 2023. “Signing CEDAW and Women’s Rights: Human Rights Treaty Signature and Legal Mobiliation” in Combridge University Press.
Day 4	(12/31)	Civil society and women’s rights in Korea Women Policy and Programs in Korea Watch and Discuss: Documentary
Day 5	(1/2)	Korean women and the family : the past and present Required readings: 1.Shin, Ki-young. 2006. “The Politics of the Family Law Reform Movement in Contemporary Korea: Contentious Space for Gender and the Nation” The Journal of Korean Studies. Vol. 11. No. 1. (Fall). Pp.93-125 2.Yang et al. 2020. “Three generations on a holiday: Exploring the influence of Neo-Confucian Values on Korean Multigenerational Family Vacation decision making” in Tourism Management Vol78
Day 6	(1/5)	Korean gender relations at work Requried readings: 1.Janelli, Roger and Dawnhee Yim. 2002. “Gender Construction in the Offices of a South Korean Conglomerate.” Pp. 115-139. In Under Construction: The Gendering of Modernity, Class, and Consumption in the Republic of Korea, edited by L. Kendall. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai‘i Press. 2.Yun, Heesuk. 2015. “The effects of expanded universal childcare support and

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
		working mothers in Korea" Asian Journal of Women's Studies, 2015 Vol. 21, No. 3, 295–315
Day 7	(1/6)	Gender-based Violence Required readings: 1.Soh, Chunghee Sarah. 2000. "From Imperial Gifts to Sex Slaves: Theorizing Symbolic Representations of the 'Comfort Women." Social Science Japan Journal 3(1):59 76. 2. Hasunuma, Linda and Ki-young Shin. 2020. "#MeToo in Japan and South Korea: #WeToo, #WithYou.
Day 8	(1/7)	**Field trip (TBC)**
Day 9	(1/8)	Korean migrant women and migrant women in Korea Requried readings: 1.Na, Hyeshim. 2019. "South Korean Nurses to West Germany? Reassessing the Role of the State in Postwar Global Labour Migration" Social History, vol. LII, no 105 (Mai/May 2019) 2.Kim, Karen L. 2017. "Korea and the Gender Construction of Female Marriage Immigrants." Pastoral Psychology 66(1): 13-25 Student Presentation (1)
Day 10	(1/9)	Contemporary gender relations and issues in Korea Requried readings: 1. Leem, So Yeon. 2017. "Gangnam-style Plastic Surgery: The Science of Westernized Beauty in South Korea." Medical Anthropology 36(7): 657-671. 2.Kim. 2021. "The Resurgence and Popularization of Feminism in South Korea: Key Issues and Challenges for Contemporary Feminist Activism" Student Presentation (2)
Makeup Classes 1	(mm/dd)	
Makeup Classes 2	(mm/dd)	

IV. Special Accommodations

* According to the University regulation section #57-3, students with disabilities can request for special accommodations related to attendance, lectures, assignments, or tests by contacting the course professor at the beginning of semester. Based on the nature of the students' request, students can receive support for such accommodations from the course professor or from the Support Center for Students with Disabilities (SCSD). Please refer to the below examples of the types of support available in the lectures, assignments, and evaluations.

Lecture	Assignments	Evaluation
. Visual impairment: braille, enlarged reading materials . Hearing impairment: note-taking assistant . Physical impairment : access to classroom, note-taking assistant	Extra days for submission, alternative assignments	. Visual impairment: braille examination paper, examination with voice support, longer examination hours, note-taking assistant . Hearing impairment: written examination instead of oral examination . Physical impairment: longer examination hours, note-taking assistant

- Actual support may vary depending on the course.

* The contents of this syllabus are not final—they may be updated.