이화여자대학교
EWHA WOMANS UNIVERSITY

Syllabus (2026-Winter)

Course Title	Special Topics in Contemporary Korean Culture	Course No.	11509
Credit	2 credits	Hours	30 Hours
Class Time Classroom	Mon to Fri (09:00-11:30) Classroom TBC		
Instructor	Name: Hwajung Kim	Department: Graduate School of International Studies	
	E-mail: hwajungkim@ewha.ac.kr	linkedin.com/in/hwajung-kim-6b0b67141	
Office Hours Office Location	by appointment (International Education Building #1104)		

I. Course Overview

1. Course Description

As Hallyu (Korean Wave) is an unprecedented phenomenon relating to the global popularity of non-Western cultural products, the course topic of "Special Topics in Contemporary Korean Culture," delving into various contemporary issues in Korean culture, is emerging as a subject for students to understand why and how non-Western culture can succeed in the 21st century vis-à-vis the predominant global cultural influence of the US since the 20th century, while the gap between Western and non-Western culture has widened in recent years. By looking at various cultural dimensions, the course aims to enhance students' overall understanding of contemporary Korea.

2. Prerequisites

No background needed

3. Course Format

Lecture	Discussion/Presentation	Assignments	Activities	Other
70%	20%	10%	%	%

4. Course Objectives

- To get a deeper understanding of contemporary Korean culture from various perspectives

5. Evaluation Systems

☐ Relative evaluation ■ Absolute evaluation ☐ Others

Midterm	Final	Quizzes	Presentation	Projects	Assignments	Participation	Attendance
- %	- %	- %	10%	30%	20%	30%	10%

II. Course Materials and Additional Readings

1. Required Materials

Lecture slides for every class on cyber campus

2. Supplementary Materials
Supplementary materials will be uploaded on cyber campus, if necessary.

3. Optional Additional Readings

III. Course Schedule

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 1	12/28 Mon	**Introduction to the Course: Special Topics in Contemporary Korean Culture**
Day 2	12/29 Tue	**What Makes Contemporary Korean Culture Unique?**
Day 3	12/30 Wed	**Hallyu Soft Power**
Day 4	12/31 Thurs	**Compressed Modernity of South Korea**
-	1/1 Fri	**No class (New Year's Holiday)**
Day 5	1/4 Mon	**Hybridization with Traditional Korean Culture**
Day 6	1/5 Tue	**Characteristics of South Korean Popular Culture**
Day 7	1/6 Wed	**K-Pop as Transnational Cultural Power & K-Dramas on Netflix**
Day 8	1/7 Thurs	**K-Movie: The Cultural Powerhouse of South Korean Cinema**
Day 9	1/8 Fri	**The Interplay between Society and Culture**
Day 10	1/11 Mon	**Opportunities and Challenges of Hallyu, the Korean Wave**
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.