

Syllabus (2023-Summer)

Course Title	Gender Relation in Korea	Course No.	
Credit	3 credits	Hours	45 Hours
Class Time Classroom	Monday to Thursday Time and Classroom TBA		
Instructor	Name Heather Willoughby	Department Graduate School of International Studies	
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Office Hours Office Location	By appointment. IEB 907		

I. Course Overview

1. Course Description

This purpose of this course is to investigate the varied and diverse aspects of gender relations in Korea and to bring a gendered focus to the anthropological study of the country. More specifically, we will discuss historical and contemporary issues of women's lives in relation to socioeconomic, cultural, and political aspects. In addition to studying the indigenous discourses of women and womanhood, a study of Korean women must also take into consideration the stereotypes and expectations of "Asian women" as imposed by Westerners.

2. Prerequisites

None

3. Course Format

Lecture	Discussion/Presentation	Experiment/Practicum	Field Study	Other
50 %	50 %	%	%	%

4. Course Objectives

The course is designed to introduce various issues on gender relations and women's lives in Korea from socioeconomic, political, cultural and historical perspective. By the end of the course, students will be able to become familiar with the key gender issues in Korea and become aware of the relations between individual and society. The course will also provide students the opportunities to critically analyze phenomena, share their opinions and learn from peers.

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
%	%	%	25 %	%	75 %	%	%

II. Course Materials and Additional Readings

1. Required Materials

A packet with all the required reading materials will be provided for purchase. Articles for Week 1 will be available via the Cyber Campus website.

2. Supplementary Materials

3. Optional Additional Readings

III. Course Policies

- * Be on time for class.
- * Students should notify their absence to the instructor prior to class. Ewha regulates that absence of more than 1/3 of classes (i.e., five or more absences) result in automatic F. Absence without any supporting evidence (e.g. note from the doctor) will be counted and reflected in the final grade.
- * Students should not use electronic devices for non-class purposes.
- * Cheating and plagiarism in any forms (e.g. copying other's works, misrepresenting other's idea, or inaccurate attribution of sources) are strictly prohibited, **this includes use of any form of Chatbots or similar AI programs for creation of the assigned papers**. Any evidence of academic dishonesty will result in an *automatic failure*. All sources used in papers must be properly cited in-text and in the references. *No make-up assignments will be allowed*.
- * Please check announcements and messages on Ewha Cyber Campus and emails regularly for any updates and changes related to the course.
- * Various backgrounds, views and personal experiences should be respected throughout the course.

III. Course Assignments

Class Presentations and Reports

* You will prepare **3 brief written research reports and 1 related presentation** on the following topics:

1. Korean Women in Film/Television
 2. Korean Women in Literature
 3. Korean Women in Music
- You will write a 5-7 page paper that analyzes your chosen novel, film, and musician with an emphasis on the ways in which Asian women are represented in/through the various forms of media.
 - You will provide one presentation (on one of the three topics), based on your research report.

IV. Course Schedule * Where more than one article is assigned for a given week, the readings will be divided among the students.

Day	Date	Topics & Class Materials, Assignments
Day 1	(7/1)	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Objectives • Reading and Presentation Assignments • Reading (in-class): Said, Edward. 1979. "Introduction I & II." Pp. 1-7. In <i>Orientalism</i>. New York, NY: Vintage Books.
Day 2	(7/2)	<p>Women's Lives in Korea and The Modern Girl/New Woman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confucian heritage • Gender roles • Gender (in)equality • New Women's Movement in Korea • Visual images of New Women in music album covers • Reading: 1. Suh, Ji Young. 2012. "Troubles of the 'New Woman' in the Emergence of Modern Korea: Focusing on the Interrelationship between 'Women's Liberation' and the Image of the 'Wise Mother and Good Wife.'" Pp. 93-106. In <i>Asian Woman and Intimate Work</i>, edited by O. Emiko and A. Kaoru. Leiden: Brill. • Optional Watching: 고양이를 부탁해 (Take Care of My Cat) https://mediaspace.illinois.edu/media/t/1_oxkfm6vm
Day 3	(7/3)	<p>Political Representation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender in Politics • Women's Political Participation • Reading: 1. Han, Ju Hui Judy and Jennifer Jihye Chun. 2014. "Introduction: Gender and Politics in Contemporary Korea." <i>The Journal of Korean Studies</i> 19(2): 245-255. 2. Park, Kyung-Ae. 1999. "Political Representation and South Korean Women." <i>The Journal of Asian Studies</i> 58(2): 432-448.

<p>Day 4</p>	<p>(7/4)</p>	<p>Contemporary Women's Lives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch and Discuss in Class <p>82년생 김지영 (Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982)</p>
<p>Day 5</p>	<p>(7/8)</p>	<p>REPORT I / PRESENTATION: Korean Women in Media (Film/Television)</p> <p>Courtship and Marriage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional and changing aspects of marriage and sexuality • Contemporary Dating/Matchmaking
<p>Day 6</p>	<p>(7/9)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: <p>1. Choi, Hyaeweol. 2008. "Constructions of Marriage and Sexuality in Modern Korea" <i>Routledge Handbook of Sexuality Studies in East Asia</i>, edited by M. McLelland and V. Mackie. London: Routledge.</p> <p>2. Song, Myoung-Sun. 2022. "Yes or Next: A Feminist's Journey of Matchmaking in South Korea." <i>Feminist Review</i> 131: 50-56.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional Watching: <p>산후조리원 (Birthcare Center) Netflix (need VPN for English subtitles)</p>
<p>Day 7</p>	<p>(7/10)</p>	<p>Family Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing Compositions of the Family • Transitions in Perceptions of Mothers and Motherhood • Marriage, Independence and Adulthood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: <p>1. Park, Sangyoub. 2015. "A Silent Revolution in the Korean Family." <i>Contexts</i> 14(2): 77-79.</p> <p>2. Kim, Bo-Hwa, Jae Kyung Lee and Hyunjoon Park. 2016. "Marriage, Independence and Adulthood among Unmarried Women in South Korea." <i>Asian Journal of Social Science</i> 44(3): 338-362.</p> <p>Migration and Multiculturalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiculturalism • Migration • Marriage Immigrants
<p>Day 8</p>	<p>(7/11)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: <p>1. Kim, Karen L. 2017. "Korea and the Gender Construction of Female Marriage Immigrants." <i>Pastoral Psychology</i> 66(1): 13-25.</p> <p>2. Lim, Timothy. 2010. "Rethinking Belongingness in Korea: Transnational Migration, 'Migrant Marriages' and the Politics of Multiculturalism." <i>Pacific Affairs</i> 83(1): 51-71.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional Watching: 완득이 (Punch) https://mediaspace.illinois.edu/media/t/1_ico02Inv
Day 9	(7/15)	REPORT II / PRESENTATION: Korean Women in Literature
Day 10	(7/16)	<p>Women and Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender Construction in Korean Conglomerates • Gender in Paid and Unpaid Work <p>• Reading:</p> <p>1. Janelli, Roger and Dawnhee Yim. 2002. "Gender Construction in the Offices of a South Korean Conglomerate." Pp. 115-139. In <i>Under Construction: The Gendering of Modernity, Class, and Consumption in the Republic of Korea</i>, edited by L. Kendall. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawai'i Press.</p> <p>2. Lim, Youngshin, et al. 2020. "Men and Women's Different Dreams on the Future of the Gendered Division of Paid Work and Household Work after COVID-19 in South Korea." <i>Research in Social Stratification and Mobility</i> 69:100544.</p>
Day 11	(7/17)	<p>Women and Sex Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex Slaves • Comfort Women <p>• Reading:</p> <p>1. Soh, Chunghee Sarah. 2000. "From Imperial Gifts to Sex Slaves: Theorizing Symbolic Representations of the 'Comfort Women.'" <i>Social Science Japan Journal</i> 3(1):59-76.</p> <p>2. Howard, Keith. 1995. (1) "Introduction" (2) "A Korean Tragedy," (3) "Korean Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan" (Chin Sung Chung), (4) "Bitter Memories I am Loath to Recall" (Kim Haksun); (5) "I Have Much to Say to the Korean Government" (Kim Tökchin). Pp. v-viii; 1-10; 11-30; 32-40; 41-49. In <i>True Stories of the Korean Comfort Women</i>. Edited by K. Howard. London: Cassell.</p> <p>• Watch 죽여주는 여자 (The Bacchus Lady) https://mediaspace.illinois.edu/media/t/1_9fb8lzw4</p>
Day 12	(7/18)	<p>The War and Women's Human Rights Museum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off-campus visit to "Comfort Women" Museum as a class.

<p>Day 13</p>	<p>(7/22)</p>	<p>Women and Beauty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender and Plastic Surgery • Body Image <p>• Reading:</p> <p>1. Leem, So Yeon. 2017. “Gangnam-style Plastic Surgery: The Science of Westernized Beauty in South Korea.” <i>Medical Anthropology</i> 36(7): 657-671.</p> <p>2. Lee, Sharon Heijin. 2016. “Beauty Between Empires: Global Feminism, Plastic Surgery, and the Trouble with Self-Esteem.” <i>Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies</i> 37(1), 1–31.</p> <p>• Read/Watch (Webtoon)</p> <p>My ID is Gangnam Beauty https://www.webtoons.com/en/drama/my-id-is-gangnam-beauty/list?title_no=3064</p> <p>• Listen</p> <p>“Beauty Culture in South Korea Reveals a Grim Future in ‘Flawless.’” NPR interview with author Elise Hu https://www.npr.org/2023/05/22/1177477181/beauty-culture-in-south-korea-reveals-a-grim-future-in-flawless</p>
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Day 14	(7/23)	Women and Music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Image of women in popular music • Reading: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Willoughby, Heather. 2006. "Image is Everything: Social and Physical Images of Female Performers in Korean Popular Music." Pp. 99-108. In <i>Korean Pop Music: Riding the Wave</i>, edited by K. Howard. Folkestone: Global Oriental. 2. Tai, Crystal. 2020.8.30. "Exploding the Myths Behind K-Pop. <i>The Guardian</i>. https://www.theguardian.com/global/2020/mar/29/behind-k-pops-perfect-smiles-and-dance-routines-are-ales-of-sexism-and-abuse 3. The Ladies of Comicazi. N.d. Kpop and the Ideal Korean Woman. https://ladiesofcomicazi.com/posts/2020/2/24/kpop-ideal-korean-woman
Day 15	(7/24)	REPORT III/ PRESENTATION: Korean Women in Music
Makeup Classes 1	(mm/dd)	
Makeup Classes 2	(mm/dd)	

V. 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.