

## Course Syllabus

Subject Number		Professor	Min, Kyeongwon
Major	International Studies	Phone Number	
Subject Name	Understanding Contemporary Korea Film	E-mail	
Credit / Hours	3 Credits / 3 Hours	Classroom	Theater in Library

### 1. Course Description

This course offers a thorough exploration of Korean culture through experiencing contemporary Korean films. Through close watching and detailed discussions of major works in the history of Korean cinema, students will examine how Korean films has represented their uniqueness and universality of the cultural identity and the historical contexts within which the films were produced.

### 2. Course Objective

To understand basic concepts of film analysis with particular reference to the relations between cinema and its socio-cultural context.

To understand Korean culture and society through contemporary films.

To discover Korean visual aesthetics and its historical background on Korean films.

To experience otherness between different cultures and to discover the way of cross cultural communication.

To become familiar with Korean language and culture.

### 3. Course Purpose

To provide a critical understanding of the people and culture of Korea through contemporary Korean film. To offer opportunities to form and express critical opinions and interpretations through discussion and independent writings.

### 4. Course Features

The course will use a combination of lectures, class discussion, research presentation, and film screening. All screening films will have English sub-titles; short sections of films without subtitles may be shown to illuminate points for discussion.

## 5. Course Type

Theory ( ), Theory, Practice ( + ), Practice ( )

## 6. Assignments

### "1. Group Research Presentation TBA

Group presentation of cultural & historical analysis for your chosen films. Research subjects will be given to each group at least 3 weeks prior to the due date. You may use audio-visual materials (VHS, DVD, and Power Point) to support your presentation. One page excerpt paper will be expected to distribute to the other students before the presentation. (25 %)

### 2. Group Video-making Project Due: 04/24 (Week 8)

Create a minimum 5 minutes short video clip having a theme of cross cultural experience. Peer critique sessions of the finished projects will also form an important part of this assignment. A Written Proposal (5% Due: 04/03) must be approved and include a treatment or a script. (25 %)

### 3. Final Paper Due: 06/19 (Week 16)

A critical essay that examines the ways that the film functions as a social document. Evidence and arguments may be drawn from a variety of sources. To make a point, you may want to refer to the film itself and tie it in with historical research, personal experience, and articles from journals. Be creative, but remember to give specific examples in support of your arguments.

The paper should be from three to five pages in length and must be typed, double-spaced,

## 7. Grades

Attendance	25%	and all that stuff	20%
Quiz	20%	class participation	%
Report	%	mid-term exam	%
Discussion	35%	final-term exam	%

## 8. Note

## 9. Expectation

## 10. Required Text (Recommended Texts )

### "Required Text

– NEW KOREAN CINEMA edited by Chi-Yun Shin & Julian Stringer. (New York University press, 2005) ISBN 0814740308.

### Recommended Texts & Periodicals

– SEOUL SEARCHING: CULTURE AND IDENTITY IN CONTEMPORARY KOREAN CINEMA edited by Frances Gateward (State University of New York Press, 2007) ISBN: 0791472264

– FILM CRITIQUES: FIPRESCI KOREA VOL. 4 by FIPRESCI Korea. (Happy House, 2005) ISBN 89-86171-38-4 / VOL. 3 (2004) ISBN 89-86171-35-X

Also recommended fabulous reviews & articles at <http://www.koreanfilm.org/>

week	Title	Content	multi-media	class room
1	week1	Course Introduction: Cross Cultural Experience through Cinema. Intriducing the classmates to each other. Making Presentation Groups.		
2	week2	" History of Korean Cinema Screening 취화선 Chihwaseon (2002) Directed by Im Kwon-taek. A biopic covering the life of Ohwon Jang Seung-eop, a talented 19th-century Korean painter with a penchant for alcohol and a disrespect for authority. Related Films 음란서생 Forbidden Quest(2006), 왕의 남자 King and the Clown(2005), 조선남녀상열지사 Untold Scandal(2003), 춘향전 Chunhyang(2000), 서편제 Sopyonje (1993)		
3	week3	" Presentation & Discussion 1 : Aesthetics of Traditional Art in Korea Screening Joint Security Area (2000) Directed by Park Chan-wook. In the DMZ separating North and South Korea, two North Korean soldiers have been killed, supposedly by one South Korean soldier. But the 11 bullets found in the bodies, together with the 5 remaining bullets in the assassin's magazine clip, amount to 16 bullets for a gun that should normally hold 15 bullets. The investigating Swiss/Swedish team from the neutral countries overseeing the DMZ suspects that another, unknown party was involved		
4	week4	" Presentation & Discussion 2 : North-South Separation and the Issue of Reunification Screening 화려한 휴가 May 18 (2007) Directed by Kim Ji-hoon. In Gwangju 1980, a brutal crackdown on student protests causes the general population to rise up in revolt. Based on the real-life incident. Min-woo leads a relatively peaceful life with his younger brother until the day the soldiers go on the rampage against the citizens. The citizens form a militia determined to protect their loved ones, and Min-woo finds himself in the middle of it all. Related Films 오래된 정원 The Old Garden(2007),		
5	week5	" Presentation & Discussion 3 : The Cost of Democracy - Political Context of South Korea Screening 살인의 추억 Memories of Murder(2003) Directed by Bong Joon-ho. From 1986 to 1991, a serial killer rapes and murders ten women in a small rural village in Gyeonggi Province. Two detectives - one local, one from Seoul - struggle to find the perpetrator. Based on a true story. Related Films 밀양 Secret Sunshine (2007), 그놈 목소리 Voice of a Murderer (2007), 일번가의 기적 Miracle on 1st Street (2007), 극락도 살인사건 Paradise Murdered(2007), 괴물 The Host(2006) 휴리데이 Holiday(2006) 지구		

week	Title	Content	multi-media	class room
6	week6	<p>" Presentation &amp; Discussion 4 : Shadows of Modernization Screening – 가족의 탄생 Family Ties (2006) Directed by Kim Tae-yong. Three separate groups of people experience upheaval and “restructuring” in their respective families. Related Films 우아한 세계 The Show Must Go On(2007), 졸지 아니한가 Skeletons In the Closet(2007), 즐거운 인생 The Happy Life (2007), 엄마를 찾아서 Umma(2005), 가족 A Family(2004), 장화 홍련 A Tale of Two Sisters (2003), 올드보이 Old Boy(2003), 바람난 가족 A Good Lawyer’s Wife(2003), 집으로 The Way Home(2002)</p>		
7	week7	<p>" Presentation &amp; Discussion 5 : Changing Family Value Screening 팔월의 크리스마스 Christmas in August(1998) Directed by Hur Jin-ho. The sidelong glance, the shared ice cream, the lazy afternoon nap, the date that no one’s calling a date – out of these tiny details “Christmas in August” builds a movie about the beginning of falling in love. Related Films 아내의 애인을 만나다 Driving With My Wife’s Lover(2007), 사랑할 때 이야기하는 것들 Solace(2006), 너는 내 운명 You’re My Sunshine(2005), 연애의 목적 Purpose Of Love(2005)</p>		
8	week8	Mid-Term Review: Group Video-making Project		
9	week9	<p>" Presentation &amp; Discussion 6 : All about Love – Korean Melodramas Screening 봄 여름 가을 겨울 그리고 봄 Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter... and Spring(2003) Written and directed by Kim Ki-duk. Set on a remote lake with a floating temple, this film tells the story of five stages in the life of a man who becomes a Buddhist monk. Related Films 오세암 Oseam (2007), 사이에서 Between (2006), 동승 A Little Monk(2003), 영매- 산자와 죽은자의 화해 Mudang-Reconciliation Between the Living and the Dead(2002), 번지점프를 하다 Bungee Jumping of Their Own(2001), 동지애 (2000), 이만개 사나이 (2000)</p>		
10	week10	<p>" Presentation &amp; Discussion 7 : Traditional Korean Thought ? Shamanism / Buddhism / Confucianism Screening 번지점프를 하다 Bungee Jumping of Their Own(2000) Directed by Kim Dae-seung. Two university students fall in love in 1983, but on the night the man must leave for the military, the woman disappears and they never see each other again. Seventeen years later the man is now a high school teacher, and one of his male students bears an uncanny resemblance to his old girlfriend. Related Films 후회하지 않아 No Regrets(2006), 왕의 남자 King and the Clown(2006), 천하장사 마돈나 Like a Vi</p>		



week	Title	Content	multi- media	class room
15	week15	"Presentation & Discussion 12 : City and Night ? Urban Noir Final Discussion Future of Korean Cinema Special Screening		
16	week16	Final Paper Due		