

## AP/KOR 4500 A Taste of Korea: Korean Foodways and Culture

### Course instructor:

Dr. Sunho Ko

Office: Ross S414E

Tel: 416-736-2100 (ext. 20495)

Email: [sunhoko@yorku.ca](mailto:sunhoko@yorku.ca)

Virtual office hours: TBA [Zoom Link will be provided]

### Times and locations:

11:30 AM – 2:30 PM on Wednesdays

There will be no in-person interactions or activities on campus.

### Course description:

This upper-level undergraduate course examines a wide spectrum of the foodways in 20th and 21st century Korea and beyond with a special focus on food as an index of politics. Rather than limited to sheer material concerns, the politics over food revolves around broader political, social, and cultural topics of global history—ranging from colonialism to the Cold War, from nationalism to globalization, from industrialized farming to organic food movement, from peasant labor to consumer desire for taste, from masculinized chefs to feminized housewives, and from excessive eating shows to fast and famine. By examining Korean food such as rice, kimchi, soy sauce, and cold noodle with the global issues, this course aims to give students not only empirical information on Korean food but also critical insights on current food-related issues in the world.

### Organization of the course

- The entire course will be run synchronously from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM on Wednesdays.
- Students will be assigned to one of two sections, one for 11:30 am – 1:00 pm and the other for 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. In each section, two or three groups of students will lead discussions with their 15-minute presentation on the week's readings.
- Students are expected to meet at the scheduled times via Zoom with webcam and mic. Please contact the instructor if you cannot regularly participate in the live sessions for some reasons such as time zone difference.

### Required textbook

There is no required textbook for this course.

### Evaluation

Assessment	Value (% of final grade)
Attendance & participation	10%
Group presentation	15%
Video report (3 minute)	25%
Short essay on food (4-5 pages, double-spaced)	25%
Take-home exam (4-5 pages, double-spaced)	25%