Contemporary Korea: Identity, Society, and Culture

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, & LINGUISTICS

Course Code

AP/KOR 3600 3.0 Contemporary Korea: Identity, Society, and Culture

Course Description

This course introduces students to contemporary Korean culture, identity, and society and to help students develop a dynamic understanding of contemporary Korean culture by taking an interdisciplinary approach to cultural and socio-political issues of Korean society. Over the last five decades, Korea has undergone a rapid societal and cultural change. This new development and many other social changes will be explored in terms of Korean society and cuisine, gender, and identity issues.

Course Delivery

Delivery Mode: LECT

This is an in-person course in which students are required to attend weekly meetings on Keele campus. Each class typically consists of lecture and group presentations on readings posted on eClass, followed by in-class discussions.

Course Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. Almost all course materials can be accessed via York University Library. It is the responsibility of the students to know how to assess the materials. Materials not available online will be posted to the eClass course webpage.

Sample Readings:

Kang, I. (2020). It All Started with a Bang: The Role of PC Bangs in South Korea's Cybercultures. In *The Korean Popular Culture Reader* (pp. 55–75). Duke University Press.

Kang, Y. (2014). Love and Money: Commercial Postpartum Care and the Reinscription of Patriarchy in Contemporary South Korea. *Journal of Korean Studies (Seattle, Wash. : 1979)*, *19*(2), 379–397.

Yang, M. (2018). The Rise of 'Gangnam style': Manufacturing the Urban Middle Class in Seoul, 1976–1996. *Urban Studies*, *55(15)*, 3404-3420.

Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Assessment	Weight %	Mode	Due dates
Attendance	10%	In-person	N/A
Group presentation	15%	In-person	Each assigned week
Weekly Response to Discussion Questions	30% (3% x 10 responses)	Online	By 5 pm on Thursdays
Mini report/video	10%	Online	By 5 pm on Oct. 22
Final Paper Proposal	5%	Online	By 5pm on Nov. 12
Final Paper	30%	Online	By 5 pm on Dec. 14
	100%		