

Fall 2020 Courses

Korea-focused Content Courses - Fall 2020

North Korea and Religion - RLST 175/EAST 431

Instructor: Hwansoo Kim

Day/Time: Monday, 1:30pm–3:20pm

Description: Ever since the establishment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in 1948 and the Korean War (1950–1953), North Korea has been depicted by the media as a reclusive, oppressive, and military country, its leaders as the worst dictators, and its people as brainwashed, tortured, and starving to death. The still ongoing Cold War discourse, intensified by the North Korea's recent secret nuclear weapons program, furthers these negative images, and outsiders have passively internalized these images. However, these simplistic characterizations prevent one from gaining a balanced understanding of and insight into North Korea and its people on the ground. Topics other than political, military, and security issues are rarely given attention. On the whole, even though North Korea's land area is larger than South Korea and its population of 25 million accounts for a third of all Koreans, North Korea has been neglected in the scholarly discussion of Korean culture. This class tries to make sense of North Korea in a more comprehensive way by integrating the political and economic with social, cultural, and religious dimensions. In order to accomplish this objective, students examine leadership, religious (especially cultic) aspects of the North Korean Juche ideology, the daily lives of its citizens, religious traditions, the Korean War, nuclear development and missiles, North Korean defectors and refugees, human rights, Christian missionary organizations, and unification, among others. Throughout, the course places North Korean issues in the East Asian and global context. The course draws upon recent scholarly books, articles, journals, interviews with North Korean defectors, travelogues, media publications, and visual materials.

Modern Korean History Studies: Issues and Methods - EAST 501/HIST 867

Instructor: Ria Chae

Day/Time: Wednesday, 3:30pm–5:20pm

Description: This course examines major works in Korean history of the twentieth century, encompassing the colonial period and the Korean War, the First Republic, economic development, and democratization of South Korea, as well as the building of the North Korean state under Kim Il Sung. Within each of the six topics, a seminal work is paired with an enthusiastically received recent study investigating the same question or time period. By critically analyzing and comparing the issues illuminated and methods employed by these studies, the course seeks to discuss the transformations and continuity of perspectives and methodology in the study of modern Korean history.

Popular Music and Christianity in Korea - EAST 503/MUSI 589/RLST 636

Instructor: Bo kyung Im

Day/Time: Monday, 3:30pm–5:20pm

Description: How do Korean popular musicians who identify as Christian position themselves in relation to the sonic worlds they inhabit? In what ways do their stylistic choices signal belonging to and/or disavowal of various social formations in the transpacific cultural imaginary? In this interdisciplinary graduate seminar, we interrogate the relationship between Christianity, popular music, and race through examination of case studies drawn primarily from early twenty-first-century Korea. Musical repertoires are analyzed within a framework that highlights transnational U.S.-Korean routes of religious and musical circulation. First, we address key theoretical and thematic foundations for the course. We then listen closely to important strands in Korean “church music,” including Western classical singing, contemporary worship, and gospel. Finally, we focus on connections between Christianity and R&B/soul, ballad, hip-hop, and “K-pop”—genres traditionally defined as “secular.” This survey of Korean popular music provides students the opportunity to consider the roles that “sacred” and “secular” constructs, race and ethnicity, imperialism, commerce, and aesthetics play in power-inflected processes of cultural globalization. Yale College juniors and seniors are welcome.

Korea-inclusive Content Courses - Fall 2020

Asian American Theologies - REL 645

Instructor: Chloe Starr

Day/Time: Monday, 3:30–5:20pm

Description: This course examines the development of Asian American theologies and their key themes: migration, intercultural theology, autobiographical narratives, political activism. The course looks at marginality and intergenerational conflicts, Asian American biblical hermeneutics, and questions such as why Korean Buddhists might attend church when in America. Students are encouraged to undertake a fieldwork project of their own choosing on an aspect of Asian American Christianity. This course is aimed at all students: the topics and methodologies are highly relevant to anyone doing theology in contemporary society and promote a greater awareness of the need for inter-multicultural theologies in today’s America. Area II and Area V.

Introduction to the History of Art: Asian Art and Culture - EAST 119/HSAR 119

Instructor: Quincy Ngan

Day/Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:35am–12:50pm

Description: This introductory course explores the art of India, China, Japan, and Korea from prehistory to the present. We consider major works and monuments from all four regions. Themes include the representation of nature and the body, the intersection of art with spirituality and politics, and everything from elite to consumer culture. All students welcome, including those who have no previous experience with either art history or the study of Asian art. This class makes frequent visits to Yale University Art Gallery.

East Asian Martial Arts Film - EALL 280/EAST 260/FILM 307

Instructor: Aaron Gerow

Day/Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 6:00pm–6:50pm

Description: The martial arts film has not only been a central genre for many East Asian cinemas, it has been the cinematic form that has most defined those cinemas for others. Domestically, martial arts films have served to promote the nation, while on the international arena, they have been one of the primary conduits of transnational cinematic interaction, as kung-fu or samurai films have influenced films inside and outside East Asia, from *The Matrix* to *Kill Bill*. Martial arts cinema has become a crucial means for thinking through such issues as nation, ethnicity, history, East vs. West, the body, gender, sexuality, stardom, industry, spirituality, philosophy, and mediality, from modernity to postmodernity. It is thus not surprising that martial arts films have also attracted some of the world's best filmmakers, ranging from Kurosawa Akira to Wong Kar Wai. This course focuses on films from Japan, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and South Korea—as well as on works from other countries influenced by them—covering such martial arts genres such as the samurai film, kung-fu, karate, wuxia, and related historical epics. It provides a historical survey of each nation and genre, while connecting them to other genres, countries, and media.

Cultures and Markets: Asia Connected through Time and Space - ANTH 342/ANTH 542

Instructor: Helen Sui

Day/Time: Tuesday, 1:30pm–3:20pm

Description: Historical and contemporary movements of people, goods, and cultural meanings that have defined Asia as a region. Reexamination of state-centered conceptualizations of Asia and of established boundaries in regional studies. The intersections of transregional institutions

and local societies and their effects on trading empires, religious traditions, colonial encounters, and cultural fusion. Finance flows that connect East Asia and the Indian Ocean to the Middle East and Africa. The cultures of capital and market in the neoliberal and postsocialist world.

Korean Language Courses - Fall 2020

Elementary Korean I - KREN 110

Instructor: Varies by section

Day/Time: Monday–Friday, 9:25am–10:15am (Section 01); Monday–Friday, 10:30am–11:20am (Section 02); Monday–Friday, 10:30am–11:20am (Section 03); Monday–Friday, 11:35am–12:25pm (Section 04)

Intermediate Korean I - KREN 130

Instructor: Varies by section

Day/Time: Monday–Friday, 9:25am–10:15am (Section 01); Monday–Friday, 2:30pm–3:20pm (Section 02)

Intermediate Korean for Advanced Learners I - KREN 132

Instructor: Seungja Choi

Day/Time: Monday–Friday, 10:30am–11:20am

Advanced Korean I: Korean Language and Culture through K-Pop Music - KREN 150

Instructor: Angela Lee-Smith

Day/Time: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9:25am–10:15am

Description: An advanced language course with emphasis on developing vocabulary and grammar, practice reading comprehension, speaking on a variety of topics, and writing in both formal and informal styles. Use storytelling, discussion, peer group activities, audio and written journals, oral presentations, and supplemental audiovisual materials and texts in class. Intended for nonheritage speakers.

Advanced Korean for Advanced Learners - KREN 152

Instructor: Angela Lee-Smith

Day/Time: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11:35am–12:25pm

Description: An advanced course in modern Korean. Reading of short stories, essays, and journal articles, and introduction of 200 Chinese characters. Students develop their speaking and writing skills through discussions and written exercises.