

Spring 2022 Courses

Korea-focused Content Courses – Spring 2022

North Korea and Religion – RLST 175/EAST 431

Instructor: Hwansoo Kim

Day/Time: Monday, 1:30pm–3:20pm

Location: TBA

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.

The United States, China, and the Origins of the Korean Peninsula Crisis – GLBL 355

Instructor: David Rank

Day/Time: Thursday, 9:25am–11:15am

Location: TBA

Description: This course looks at the current situation on the Korean Peninsula and the interaction of the major players there through historical and diplomatic practitioners' perspectives. The strategic interests of major powers intersect on the Korean Peninsula to a degree found in few other places on earth. In a part of the globe China long viewed as within its sphere of influence, four nuclear powers now rub shoulders and the United States maintains a military presence. With the Armistice that ended the Korean War still in place, Northeast Asia is the Cold War's last front, but today's nuclear crisis makes it more than a historical curiosity. Drawing on original diplomatic documents and other source materials, as well as first-hand experience of current-day diplomats, this course considers the trajectory of the two Korea's relationships with the United States and China and their role in the international politics of East Asia.

Modern Korean Buddhism from Sri Lanka to Japan – EAST 511/RLST 598

Instructor: Hwansoo Kim

Day/Time: Thursday, 1:30pm–3:20pm

Location: TBA

Description: This course situates modern Korean Buddhism in the global context of the late nineteenth century to the present. Through critical examination of the dynamic relationship between Korean Buddhism and the Buddhisms of key East Asian cities—Shanghai, Tokyo, Taipei, and Lhasa—the course seeks to understand modern East Asian Buddhism in a transnational light. Discussion includes analyzing the impact of Christian missionaries, pan-Asian and global ideologies, colonialism, Communism, capitalism, war, science, hypermodernity, and atheism.

Korea-inclusive Content Courses – Spring 2022

Race and Place in British New Wave, K-Pop, and Beyond – ER&M 081/SOCY 081/MUSI 081

Instructor: Grace Kao

Day/Time: Monday & Wednesday, 4:00pm–5:15pm

Location: TBA

Description: This seminar introduces you to several popular musical genres and explores how they are tied to racial, regional, and national identities. We examine how music is exported via migrants, return migrants, industry professionals, and the nation-state (in the case of Korean Popular Music, or K-Pop). Readings and discussions focus primarily on the British New Wave (from about 1979 to 1985) and K-Pop (1992-present), but we also discuss first-wave reggae, ska, rocksteady from the 1960s-70s, British and American punk rock music (1970s-1980s), the precursors of modern K-Pop, and have a brief discussion of Japanese City Pop. The class focuses mainly on the British New Wave and K-Pop because these two genres of popular music have strong ties to particular geographic areas, but they became or have become extremely popular in other parts of the world. We also investigate the importance of music videos in the development of these genres.

Childhood and Domesticity in East Asia – HIST 386J/EAST 416

Instructor: Na Sil Heo

Day/Time: Tuesday, 3:30pm–5:20pm

Location: TBA

Description: This course offers an overview of burgeoning studies of childhood and domesticity in East Asia to get us to think about childhood and domesticity as methodologies of studying East Asia and history in general. Instead of learning about children “as they were,” this course examines how childhood and domesticity were socially constructed. East Asia is our geographical focus, although this course also introduces students to relevant key works in studies of childhood in the United States and Europe. This course focuses on several key questions. How do studies of childhood and domesticity enhance, challenge, and/or broaden our understanding of East Asia? How were normative conceptions of childhood, domesticity, and family constructed and challenged throughout the 20th century? How does scholarship on childhood and domesticity help us understand our own experiences of childhood, family, and homes? How can we make connections between the familiar/mundane everyday life with more explicitly political issues, such as wars and economy? Through a transnational approach, we situate East Asia within the global, transnational circulation of ideas, people, money, and practices that continue to shape how we perceive and experience our childhood, family, and domesticity.

Introduction to East Asian Theologies – REL 616

Instructor: Chloe Starr

Day/Time: Tuesday, 1:30pm–3:20pm

Location: TBA

Description: This course introduces a range of theological themes and key thinkers in twentieth- and twenty-first century Japan, Taiwan, and Korea. It surveys different theological movements within these countries (such as “homeland theology,” Minjung theology, the “no-church” movement, etc.) and encourages a critical response to the challenges that these theologies raise for Christians in Asia and elsewhere. The course considers contextualization and inculturation debates in each of these societies, as well as regional responses to Christianity. We read primary texts in English, with background reading for context, and students are encouraged to develop their own responses to the authors and their thought (e.g., students may submit theological reflections to count toward their grade). Area II and Area V.

Korean Language Courses – Spring 2022

Elementary Korean II – KREN 120

Instructor: Varies by section

Day/Time: Monday–Friday, 9:25am–10:15am (Sections 01 & 02); Monday–Friday, 10:30am–11:20am (Sections 03 & 04); Monday–Friday, 11:35am–12:25pm (Sections 05 & 06)

Location: Varies by section

Description: Continuation of KREN 110.

Intermediate Korean II – KREN 140

Instructor: Hyunsung Lim

Day/Time: Monday–Friday, 9:25am–10:15am (Section 01)

Location: TBA

Description: Continuation of KREN 130.

Intermediate Korean for Advanced Learners II – KREN 142

Instructor: Hye Seong Kim

Day/Time: Monday–Friday, 10:30am–11:20am (Section 01)

Location: TBA

Description: Continuation of KREN 132.

Advanced Korean II: Language and Culture through Media – KREN 151

Instructor: Hye Seong Kim

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

Location: TBA

Description: This course is content and project-based to further develop integrated language skills-spoken and written, including grammar and vocabulary, as well as intercultural competence through Korean media. Through a variety of media, such as print media, publishing, digital media, cinema, broadcasting (radio, television, podcasting), and advertising, students explore and reflect on a wide range of topics and perspectives in Korean culture and society. The course learning activities include interactive, interpretive, and presentational communication; critical analysis; creative and authentic language applications in formal/informal contexts.

Advanced Korean III – KREN 154

Instructor: Seungja Choi

Day/Time: Tuesday & Thursday, 1:00pm–2:15pm

Location: TBA

Description: An advanced language course designed to develop reading and writing skills using Web-based texts in a variety of genres. Students read texts independently and complete comprehension and vocabulary exercises through the Web. Discussions, tests, and intensive writing training in class.