

GLOA 450-K01: K-Pop, Hallyu & Korean Culture
KORE 320-K01: Korean Popular Culture in a Global World
SPRING 2023

Professor: Gyu Tag Lee

Time: Monday / Wednesday 15:30 – 16:45

Room: TBA

Email: gleeg@gmu.edu

Office: #547

Office Hours: Tuesday 14:00-17:00 or by appointment

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the contemporary culture of Korea, with an emphasis on the *Hallyu* (Korean Wave), K-Pop and Korean culture and media. Major themes throughout the course will be: (1) Important aspects that have shaped today's Korean society and media culture; (2) Korea in East Asia; (3) the development of *Hallyu*; (4) the history of K-Pop and its globalization and (5) the co-existence of local and global in Korea. Although readings and assignments are set up on different forms of cultural products, the overall intent of the course is comprehensive understanding of the ambivalence of Korean popular culture – local and global at the same time.

Students are going to listen to many K-Pop songs, watch a couple of Korean films, excerpts from K-Drama, Korean documentaries, and more. It means that this course will be fun and even entertaining sometimes! However, it is REALLY important for students to actively participate into the class discussion when enjoying all those K-media products. Though it is a upper level undergraduate course, the instructor would like to lead the course to a quasi-graduate level course asking students to act autonomously.

Class Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, it is expected that each student will

- Understand how Korean contemporary culture and society has been shaped by different influences from outside with its own effort and interpretation
- Understand the history of modern Korea from the global perspective
- Recognize how Hallyu and K-Pop has become the global cultural phenomenon in- and outside East Asia
- Develop reading and interpreting skills (media literacy) when enjoying media products
- Think critically about Korean-ness or 'being Korean'

Course Textbooks:

- **There's no specific textbook for this class.**
- Most of the required/recommended course texts will be made available on Blackboard

(<https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>) or will be provided by email. It is your responsibility to print these texts or read them electronically, and take good notes. Please check Blackboard regularly for course texts and announcements. Also, PowerPoint materials used in the class would be available on the Blackboard.

- A couple of books are recommended to understand this course more deeply.
 - 1) *Transnational Convergence of East Asian Pop Culture*. Edited by Seok-Kyeong Hong and Dal Yong Jin, New York: Routledge (2021).
 - 2) *The Korean Wave: Evolution, Fandom, and Transnationality*. Edited by Tae-Jin Yoon and Dal Yong Jin. Lanham: Lexington Books (2017).
- For those who can read and understand Korean well, Korean books below are strongly recommended:
 - 1) *The K-Pop Age* 『케이팝의 시대』 by Gyu Tag Lee 이규탁 (2016)
 - 2) *K-Pop in Conflict: Between Local and Global* 『갈등하는 케이, 팝: 한국적인 동시에 세계적인 음악』 by Gyu Tag Lee 이규탁 (2020)
 - 3) *Hallyu in Globalization and Digital Culture Era* 『세계화와 디지털 문화 시대의 한류』 by Seok-Kyeong Hong 홍석경 (2013)

These books will be available at the IGC Library. They are ‘recommended’, not ‘required’ for this course though they surely would assist you to understand the course better.

- Another important “text” for this course is your **GMU email account**. I will be periodically sending out updates, announcements, and syllabus changes to your GMU email addresses and it is your responsibility to regularly check your email and maintain space in your inboxes. The phrase “I did not get your email” is not an acceptable excuse.

Course Policies and Student Responsibilities:

1. Attendance

- a. You are expected to **attend all classes**, arriving **before** the class begins and remaining engaged for the duration of each class meeting. If you cannot attend class due to illness or other emergency, you should notify your professor directly or by email before class.
- b. Arriving late or leaving early is equal to 1/2 absence. **Any more than 3 absences** will result in a grade penalty in participation.
- c. If a student misses **more than seven(7) classes** (eight(8) classes or more) he or she would be fail.

2. Class Preparation and Participation

a. Class Preparation and Participation

- (1) Students must prepare in advance for every class meeting (recommended reading and written homework). Class participation means that you actively engage in the discussions/activities and that you take notes during discussions and lectures.
- (2) DO NOT WORK ON OTHER CLASS ASSIGNMENTS, TEXT MESSAGE/KAKAO TALK, READ EMAIL, FACEBOOK OR ENGAGE IN OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA DURING CLASS TIME. Your grade will be seriously lowered if the instructor finds you doing those things.

b. Mobile Phones and Other Electronic Devices (Laptops, Tablets, etc.)

- During class all mobile phones should be switched off or to silent mode, and put away out of sight. Mobile phones on your desk, lap, or within sight are not allowed. Using phones without permission can negatively impact your participation grade.
- If mobile phones or other devices use continues after the start of class you may be asked to leave the classroom, which could also affect your attendance score.
- Students should keep in mind that this is a **laptop ban class** when we have a face to face meeting.

c. Homework and Written Assignments

- You must complete the homework and written assignments *independently and individually*. **Copying homework and/or a written assignment from a current or former student is cheating.** University policies for cases of academic integrity can be found at: <http://oai.gmu.edu/>. If you have any questions about these policies, please ask your professor before completing the assignment.

d. Course Readings and Worksheets

- You are responsible for completing reading homework for every class meeting if there is any. You should be prepared to share the main ideas from each reading and have the written assignments ready for in-class discussions/activities. Your professor may check to see if your homework is complete at any time. These homework checks are part of your Preparation and Participation Grade. Do not email “missing” or late worksheets to your professor. You must be present in-class to receive credit for homework.

e. Graded Assignments

- These must be typed using MS Word. All text must be in 12-point font and double-spaced. Please check spelling and grammar prior to submitting your assignments.

f. Using AI writing programs (such as ChatGPT)

- a. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) to produce writing for this course is **NOT ALLOWED** unless it is otherwise stated by the instructor. If a student is found to have used AI-generated content for an assignment, that student may fail the assignment or even the course.

- ※ If you want to get advising for your writing assignment, you can visit GMUK Academic Resource Center. Please find more information about it at the end of this syllabus.

3. Late Work

- You must get permission from the Professor to submit work after the posted due date. Otherwise, late work will not be accepted and will result in a “zero” grade. Even when permission is given, late work may be subject to a certain percent grade penalty.

4. Blackboard

- You are expected to use Blackboard to access course materials. Also, you should be able to access your GMU e-mail account.
- Should any class sessions need to be recorded, students will be notified in advance. Any recordings will be stored on Blackboard and will only be accessible to students taking the course during this semester.
- A selection of certain works (e.g., articles, podcasts, videos, book chapters) will be available to students through Blackboard and remain subject to all rights and restrictions of the publisher and are to be used solely for academic purposes.
- Course materials and recordings are not to be distributed, sold, or employed for any other purposes.

5. Time Management

: You are encouraged to make an appointment with the course professor as soon as you experience difficulty in the course or have questions about an assignment or exam. Do not wait to get help. Keep in mind that poor planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on the part of your professor (i.e. if you wait until the last minute to make an appointment with your professor, you may not have the opportunity to do so).

Students with Disabilities

: If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Academic Affairs at 032-626-5060. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the Office.

Mason Diversity Statement

: George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth.

An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to

achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected.

The reflection of Mason's commitment to diversity and inclusion goes beyond policies and procedures to focus on behavior at the individual, group and organizational level. The implementation of this commitment to diversity and inclusion is found in all settings, including individual work units and groups, student organizations and groups, and classroom settings; it is also found with the delivery of services and activities, including, but not limited to, curriculum, teaching, events, advising, research, service, and community outreach.

Acknowledging that the attainment of diversity and inclusion are dynamic and continuous processes, and that the larger societal setting has an evolving socio-cultural understanding of diversity and inclusion, Mason seeks to continuously improve its environment. To this end, the University promotes continuous monitoring and self-assessment regarding diversity. The aim is to incorporate diversity and inclusion within the philosophies and actions of the individual, group and organization, and to make improvements as needed.

Course Assessments and Grading Scale
SPRING 2023

Your course grade will consist of the following:

1. Monthly Response Papers (three [3] total)	20% (total 200 pts.)
2. Film Reflection Papers (five [5] total)	15% (total 150 pts.)
3. 'In the News' Presentation	20% (200 pts.)
4. Excursion and Reflection Paper	10% (100 pts.)
5. Blackboard Discussion	10% (100 pts.)
6. Participation	25% (total 250 pts.)
6.1 Attendance	10% (100 pts.)
6.2 Classroom Discussion Participation	15% (150 pts.)
Total	100% (1,000 pts.)

Grading Scale

- A+ = 97.0~100, A0 = 93.0~96.9, A- = 89.0~92.9
- B+ = 85.0~88.9, B0 = 81.0~84.9, B- = 77.0~80.9
- C+ = 73.0~76.9, C0 = 69.0~72.9, C- = 65.0~68.9
- D or F = below 65.0

Overview of Course Assignments

1. Monthly Response Papers: 20% (50+60+90 = 200 pts.)

- a. Students will be asked to write **three (3) informal, at least 1,200-word papers**. The paper should address your reactions and interpretations of class materials (including lectures, films, and 'In the News' presentations and discussions) each month. The papers are relatively informal in structure. In other words, you can discuss whatever you found intriguing about the readings and lectures without organizing the paper around a central argument as you would in a more formal paper.
- b. Professor will give a detailed instruction about the paper 1 to 2 weeks before the due date (such as possible topics, format, etc.).
- c. *NO LATE SUBMISSION WILL BE ALLOWED.*
- d. Note on grading: When marking these, I will NOT be strictly looking for grammar, organization, and so on. I will be looking for evidence that you are engaged with what we've done during the class, and your own thoughts/reflections/opinions about the topic that you choose to write about. Papers that simply re-hash the lectures or the readings, or that fail to show an explicit connection to the class will receive reduced or zero credit.
- e. Using AI writing programs: Refer to the course policy section 2-f.

2. Film Reflection Papers: 15% (150 pts)

- During the semester, students will watch 5 films and write their thoughts, ideas, impressions and arguments about it. For each reflection paper, Professor will give students a couple of questions to think about when watching the film. The minimum word-count for each reflection paper will be 350 words.
- The reflection paper does not have to be very formal and strictly academic. You can write your thoughts, opinions, and arguments more freely than the typical academic essay.
- **Avoid summarizing** the readings and other references – move quickly into an analytical response and show your own arguments/opinions. This essay should be argumentative, rather than too descriptive and/or informative.
- If your answer is well-made and seems more insightful/interesting than usual, you will get up to 5 extra points. Therefore, if you get extra points for some of your essays, your total points can be more than 150 pts.
- Note on grading: When marking this, I will NOT be strictly looking for grammar, organization, and so on. I will be looking for evidence that you are engaged with what we've done during the class, and your own thoughts/reflections/opinions about the topic that you choose to write about. Papers that simply re-hash the lectures or the readings, or that fail to show an explicit connection to the class **will receive reduced or zero credit**.

3. 'In the News' (Presentation and Leading discussion): 20% (200 pts.)

- a. A group of students (consisting of two or more) chooses a topic from recent news/magazine articles and/or TV news about contemporary Korean politics, economics, society, history, culture, etc.
- b. Then the group make a 15-minute presentation about it, explaining why they choose the topic and the details about the issue.
- c. After the presentation, we will have a discussion session about it. First, two discussants appointed by the Professor at random will ask questions and give comments on the presentation. Then other students can jump into the discussion.

4. Blackboard Discussion: 10% (100 pts.)

- a. During the semester, students will have to participate in 6-7 online Blackboard Discussions. Professor often will give you a couple of discussion questions sometimes with reading materials (such as newspaper/magazine articles) or videos

through Blackboard Discussion section. Please read the assigned article(s) and make your own thoughts and replies to others' thoughts on the Blackboard.

- b. You will make comments on others by the different due date from your own discussion. Details will be announced on each Discussion forum.
- c. If your answer is well-made and seems more insightful/interesting than usual, you will get 3 extra points. If you get those extra points for some of your discussions, your total points can be more than 100 pts.
- d. If you don't make reply to others' answers when participating in the discussion, 2 pts will be deducted (for example, you make a less satisfying answer without making reply to other, you may get 6 pts only).

5. Excursion & Reflection Paper: 10% (100 pts.)

- a. Our class will have an excursion in the semester (expected to be one of Saturdays in May). The excursion is to see and feel directly what we learn and discuss in the classroom.
- b. Students will write one excursion paper (330-word, double-spaced). The paper should be submitted in the very next class after the excursion.
- c. Details about the excursion (such as the exact date, time, and the place) will be announced later in the class.
- d. Participating excursion is MANDATORY. Students should arrange their own schedules.

6. Participation: 25% (total 250 pts.)

In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also to the class as a whole.

6.1 Attendance: 10% (100 pts.)

: Refer to the course policy section 1.

6.2 Classroom Discussion Participation: 15% (150 pts.) → *Important!*

- Class participation is crucial to one's overall grade. It will be assessed by your participation during other students' presentation and other usual class participations.
- ***This is separate from your general attendance. They are separately graded. It means your attendance does not count as classroom discussion participation.***
- It will be counted based on how many times you participate. Therefore, you can get zero if you do not make any participation during class discussions in the semester. You can get the full participation grade when you make six(6) participations through the

whole semester (you will get some extra credit if you make participations more than eight(8) times).

- Just saying 'yes' or 'no' or rising your hands when the instructor asks simple OX questions will not count as participation.

Class Schedule:

(All dates are subject to change)

Week 1 (02. 20 / 02. 22)**Course Introduction****Week 2** (02. 27 / 03. 01)**Important Moments of Modern Korea (I)**Reading:

PARK Myung-Jin et al. (2000). "Modernization, Globalization, and the Powerful State: The Korean Media". In James Curran and PARK Myung-Jin (Eds.), *De-Westernizing Media Studies* (pp. 111-123). London and New York: Routledge.

Recommended Film:

Inside Men 내부자들 (2015)

*** NO CLASS on 03/01 (Independence Movement Day [삼일절])**

Week 3 (03. 06 / 03. 08)**Important Moments of Modern Korea (cont.)****Film 1** (Theme: South Korean society before the 1990s):

Memories of Murder 살인의 추억

Week 4 (03. 13 / 03. 15)**How to Understand *Gukppong* and cyber-nationalism in East Asia?**Readings:

Sudhanva D. Shetty (2016). "Between Patriotism and Nationalism". Retrieved from http://www.huffingtonpost.in/sudhanva-d-shetty/patriotism-nationalism-a-b_9354822.html

PARK Jihoonk & WANG Yue (2022). "Homeland vs. Korean idols: Cyber-nationalism in Chinese K -Pop Fandom". *Global Cultural Contents*, Vol. 52, pp. 163-182.

Week 5 (03. 20 / 03. 22)**How to Understand *Gukppong* and cyber-nationalism in East Asia? (cont.) / Globalization of Culture in South Korea**Readings:

BAK Sangmee (2006). "McDonald's in Seoul". In *Golden Arches East: McDonalds in East Asia* (2nd edition) (pp. 136-160). Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Korea Herald (2016). "Why More Koreans Eating Alone". Retrieved from <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20160529000252>

Film 2 (Theme: Globalization of Culture in South Korea):

Untold Scandal 스캔들: 조선남녀상열지사

Week 6 (03. 27 / 03. 29)

Globalization of Culture in Korea (cont.)

Think about issues below when watching this film.

- How does the film depict the mood and sentiment of 1980s' South Korea?
- Why are scenes of violence and torture by the police shown so often in this film?
- What does the last scene mean to you?
- Etc.

***04. 02 (Sun.): 1st Monthly Paper Due**

Week 7 (04. 03 / 04. 05)

East Asian Cultural Exchange before *Hallyu* (I): HK in the 1980s

Reading:

IWABUCHI Koichi (2009). "Reconsidering East Asian Connectivity". In Chris Berry et al. (Eds.), *Cultural Studies and Cultural Industries in Northeast Asia: What a Difference a Region Makes* (pp. 25-36). Hong Kong: HKU Press.

Film 3 (Theme: HK Film at the Edge of Golden Age):

Chungking Express 重慶森林 (중경삼림)

Week 8 (04. 10 / 04. 12)

East Asian Cultural Exchange before *Hallyu* (I): HK in the 1980s (cont.) / East Asian Cultural Exchange before *Hallyu* (II): Japan in the 1990s

Reading:

IWABUCHI Koichi (2003). "Japan's Asian dreamworld". In *Recentring Globalization: Popular Culture and Japanese Transnationalism* (pp. 199-210). Durham: Duke University Press.

Week 09 (04. 17 / 04. 19)

East Asian Cultural Exchange before *Hallyu* (II): Japan in the 1990s

Week 10 (04. 24 / 04. 26)

Beginning of *Hallyu* / From *Hallyu* 1.0 to 3.0

Reading:

Reading:

SHIM Doobo (2008). "The Growth of Korean Cultural Industries and the Korean Wave". In Chua Beng Huat and Koichi Iwabuchi (Eds.), *East Asian Pop Culture: Analysing the Korean*

Wave (pp. 15-31). Hong Kong: HKU Press.

JIN Dal-yong (2016). "The Rise of Korean Wave". In *New Korean Wave: Transnational Cultural Power in the Age of Social Media* (pp. 3-17). Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

Week 11 (05. 01 / 05. 03)

Spring Recess (No Classes)

***05. 07 (Sun.): 2nd Monthly Paper Due**

Week 12 (05. 08 / 05. 10)

From *Hallyu* 1.0 to 3.0 (cont.)

Reading:

YOON Tae-Jin and KANG Bora (2017). "Emergence, Evolution, and Extension of 'Hallyu Studies': What Have Scholars Found from Korean Pop Culture in the Last Twenty Years?". In Tae-Jin Yoon and Dal Yong Jin (Eds.), *The Korean Wave: Evolution, Fandom, and Transnationality* (pp. 3-21). Lanham: Lexington Books.

Week 13 (05. 15 / 05. 17)

History of K-Pop (I): US and Japan as Two References

Film 4 (Theme: K-Pop Industry):

Nine Muses of Star Empire(Documentary) 나인뮤지스 - 그녀들의 서바이벌

Reading:

Gyu Tag Lee (2021). "New Generation Dance Music: the beginning of K-pop and J-pop's influence". In Seok-Kyeong Hong and Dal Yong Jin (Eds.), *Transnational Convergence of East Asian Pop Culture* (pp. 75-95). New York: Routledge.

Recommended (if possible):

Gyu Tag Lee (2016). *The K-Pop Age* 케이팝의 시대. Paju: Hanul M Plus.

Week 14 (05. 22 / 05. 24)

History of K-Pop (II): New Generation Dance Music in the 1990s / History of K-Pop (III): From 1st to 3rd Generation

Readings:

Ju Oak Kim (2016). "Establishing an Imagined SM Town: How Korea's Leading Music Company Has Produced a Global Cultural Phenomenon". *Journal of Popular Culture*, Vol. 49(5), pp. 1042-1058.

Gyu T. Lee (2019). "BTS: New Directions for K-Pop's Ongoing Global Success". *EAF Policy Debates*, No. 116.

Recommended (if possible):

Gyu T. Lee (2016). *The K-Pop Age* 케이팝의 시대.

**Week 15 (05. 29 / 05. 31 / 06. 05) History of K-Pop (III): From 1st to 3rd Generation (cont.)
/ Some Issues In K-Pop**

Film 5 (Theme: Korean Romance Film):

Christmas in August 8월의 크리스마스

Readings:

Gyu T. Lee (2019). Faraway, So Close: Produce 48 and the Cultural-Industrial Collaboration between K-Pop and J-Pop. *Korean Journal of Popular Music*, Vol. 24, 251-288.

Recommended (if possible):

Gyu T. Lee (2020). *K-Pop in Conflict: Between Local and Global* 갈등하는 케이, 팝: 한국적인 동시에 세계적인 음악. Seoul: Three Chairs.

***06. 11 (Sun.): 3rd Monthly Paper Due**

In the interest of everyone's safety, students and faculty must follow these guidelines during the SPRING 2023 semester.

1. Now it is NOT MANDATORY to wear a face mask. However, you should still care about your own personal health. Clean your seat and desk space with disinfectant wipes before you begin class. Use hand sanitizer regularly, and avoid shaking hands or other forms of physical contact. Do not share pens, pencils or other personal items. Limit your use of the elevators, and use stairs to travel between floors of the building. Students are expected to purchase their own masks for personal use if necessary. Disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom.
2. Observe rules and regulations, and protocol regarding COVID-19 at all times during the class period and while in Mason's building or other public areas of the campus. Refer to messages and instructions from MK Office of Emergency, Health and Safety.
3. Make sure windows and doors open often to promote circulation of outside air. Classrooms without windows have mechanical systems that vent air.
4. All faculty and students must abide by these rules in the classroom. If you see others who are not observing the rules outside the classroom, you may report this to your instructor, student affairs or academic affairs.
5. Do not enter the Mason building or come to class if you have symptoms such as fever, chills, sore throat, persistent cough, shortness of breath or other respiratory difficulties. If you must miss class for this reason, send an email immediately to the professor prior to the beginning of class. You will not be penalized for missing class for this reason, but you may

be asked to provide documentation that you sought medical diagnosis or treatment. You are responsible for making up any missed assignments or tests as a result of your absence.

6. Students who come to class with visible signs of illness will be asked to leave the classroom immediately and seek assistance from the IGC Health Clinic. Faculty will report your name and symptoms to the Office of Student Affairs (mksa@gmu.edu) to confirm that you have sought medical assistance.
7. Failure to comply with any of these guidelines may result in disciplinary action through the Student Code of Conduct.

Academic Integrity

: George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, Plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited.

: All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.

Enrollment

: Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class.

: Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes. Deadlines each semester are published in the Academic Calendar available from Mason Korea website (<https://masonkorea.gmu.edu/academic-calendars/academic-calendars>).

: **Last day to add – Feb 27, 2023**

: **Final Drop Deadline (with 100% tuition refund) – Mar 6, 2023**

: **Unrestricted Withdrawal Period (100% tuition liability) – Mar 31, 2023**

: After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons.

: Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the website for selective withdrawal procedures.

GUMK Academic Resource Center

: The Academic Resource Center, GMUK is in the business of looking at your papers and problems to improve your academic achievement in the area of Writing, Mathematics, Accounting, Statistics, and Economics. You are invited to utilize the faculty and student tutor services at a variety of stages in your academic activities, checking to see that your project specifically meets the directions specified by your instructor.

While tutors are ‘fixing’ your writing or projects, they do help you become conscious of particular error patterns that emerge in your work. For more information, please contact Professor Eunmee Lee, director of Academic Resource Center (elee45@gmu.edu, office #521). You can refer to Mason Korea website (<https://masonkorea.gmu.edu/resources-and-services/academic-resource-center/academic-resource-center>).