



Special Topics in Korean Studies (한국학특강) 2026 Summer

Instructor

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[Note] Please add [ST] in the title. Also, if the question is related to all of your group members, please CC them in the e-mail.

Office Phone: 02-6490-2223

Office Hours: by appointment

Class Time and Location

TBA

Course Material

Main Textbook: (Tudor) Tudor, Daniel (2012) *Korea: The Impossible Country*, Tuttle Publishing (ISBN 978-0-8048-4252-5)

Course website: All the course related announcements will be made via online lecture hall (in the UOS portal). Students are expected to check the online lecture hall regularly. Additional course materials will be provided through the online course site.

Do not purchase textbooks before the first class.

Level

Undergraduate

Course Description and Scope

The general objective of this course is to help students better understand Korean society. To this end, we will discuss Korean history, culture, and social values.

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) Discuss the history, language, religion, philosophical bases, cultural codes, and social values that are central to Korean culture and society;
- 2) Identify the cultural norms behind language, social behavior, and Korean media;
- 3) Be exposed to diverse topics related to Korea in relation to other countries through active learning and sharing diverse topics on Korean society and culture;
- 4) Develop substantial knowledge, critical thinking skills and logical analysis competence through discussions on diverse topics of Korea.

Course Evaluation

1. Class participation (20%):
 - a. Attendance will be taken
 - b. Self-introduction presentation (5 minutes; Day 2)

2. One exam (25%): No make-up exam will be given without a university-approved excuse.
3. Reflection essays (1~2 times) (15%)
4. Individual topic presentation (15%): All students are expected to make a presentation on their interest of South Korea (10 minutes).
 - a. Comparisons with your own countries are highly recommended
 - b. Need to include 1 question toward the end of the presentation for class discussion.
 - c. 1 – 2 students per class but depends on the class size; presentation schedule TBD in Day 2
5. Group work (25%)--- Tentative

There will be time to discuss the chosen topic. The final presentation will be held toward the end of the semester. All group members are expected to participate in the presentation.

Format:

- Group size: TBD (depends on the class size)
- Length: 15 PPT slides maximum
- Each group will be required to give 20-minutes presentation (TBD)
- Detailed information will be provided in class

Important Notes:

For group presentation, it is mandatory that every member in the group presents one part.

A mandatory peer group evaluation will be performed to evaluate the group member performance across all the group-based assignments. Students failing to meet group requirements will have their grades lowered accordingly.

Course Contents:

Please refer to the in-class handouts for the detailed schedule (subject to change).

The topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

Day 1 – 2: Orientation, Self-introduction, House-keeping

Day 3 – 5: Topic 1. History of Korea (from Gojoseon to modern era)

Day 6 – 10: Topic 2. Social Customs in Korea: we will touch upon emotional concepts related to social customs, culture and traditions in Korea (e.g., Jeong)

Day 11 – 13: Topic 3 & 4. K-sports (e.g., Baseball) and traditional play (depends on the class size)

Day 14: Quiz

Day 15: Final presentation

Course Policies and Student Responsibilities

(1) General

You are expected to complete all assigned pre-class readings and activities (if any), attend all seminar classes punctually and take all scheduled assignments and tests by due dates. You are expected to take responsibility to follow up with course notes, assignments, and course related announcements for seminar sessions they have missed. You are expected to participate in all seminar discussions and activities.

(2) Absenteeism

Absence from class without a valid reason will affect your overall course grade. Valid reasons include falling sick supported by a medical certificate and participation in UOS's approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies.

If you miss a lecture, you must inform the course instructor via email *prior* to the start of the class. It is your responsibility to make-up the materials that are missed.

Academic Integrity

Neither plagiarism nor cheating of any kind will be tolerated. Students are responsible for doing all written work independently.