



**IWS3016 Contemporary Korean Society and Korean Cinema**  
Prof. Youngeun Jang, SKKU

**SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Our aim is to enhance our understanding of Contemporary Korean Life and Culture by analyzing the unique characteristics of Korean society through a comparative cultural perspective. Specifically, we will be examining how Korean films portray and reflect the characteristics of Korean society. Our class seeks to provide a perspective that can predict the future of Korea by exploring the distinctive issues of Korean society and noteworthy Korean films from various angles since the 2000s. We will also be exploring the impact of Korean films on Korean culture.

**READING MATERIALS**

Before the start of the class, there are no textbooks or class materials to read. However, if you're a student who wishes to have a deeper understanding of Korean popular culture, then I recommend the following books as reference materials:

1. "Understanding Korean Webtoon Culture: Transmedia Storytelling, Digital Platforms, and Genres" by Dal Yong Jin, published by Harvard East Asian Monographs in 2022.
2. "The Routledge Handbook of Korean Culture and Society" edited by Youna Kim, published by Routledge in 2020.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

All ISS courses are either pass [ grades above 60] or fail [ grades below 60] Attendance: SKKU requires students to attend at least 80% of all class meetings. We have 15 class meetings thus you may miss 2 classes without providing an excuse or incurring a penalty.

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, plagiarism or knowingly providing false information for example lying, using a substitute during a quiz and/or examination, cheating sheets, or copying during examinations are prohibited. If caught, the given assignment will be scored zero. Grade Distribution (out of 100) Attendance 10% Participation 30% Writing Assignment 30% Exam 30%

There will be one Korean film criticism writing assignment. Higher marks will be given to writings that present and argue the topic reasonably and persuasively. The group presentation is a project in 2 which each group selects two Korean films, analyzes the characteristics of the representation method, and evaluates the reality of Korean society from various perspectives.

Depending on class size and student interests, the syllabus may vary.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**– WEEK I –**

1. 2024-01-03 (WED)

Gender inequality and <KIM JI-YOUNG, BORN 1982>

2. 2024-01-04 (THU)

<Masquerade> and the Historical Movie

3. 2024-01-05 (FRI)

〈Train to Busan〉and Social Disaster

**– WEEK II –**

4. 2024-01-08 (MON)

〈1987〉and the Korean democratic movement(1)

5. 2024-01-09 (TUE)

〈A Taxi Driver〉and the Korean democratic movement(2)

6. 2024-01-10 (WED)

〈Mother〉and Korean Family

7. 2024-01-11 (THU)

〈Steel Rain〉and North Korea

8. 2024-01-12 (FRI)

〈Dear Pyongyang〉 and North Korea

**– WEEK III –**

9. 2024-01-15 (MON)

The Emergence of the MZ Generation and 〈Microhabitat〉

10. 2024-01-16 (TUE)

Exam

11. 2024-01-17 (WED)

〈Minari〉and the Korean Diaspora

12. 2024-01-18 (THU)

〈Parasite〉and Class Inequality

13. 2024-01-19 (FRI)

Group Project Presentation (1)

**– WEEK IV–**

14. 2024-01-22 (MON)

Group Project Presentation (2)

15. 2024-01-23 (TUE)

Asian Values and Korean Culture