



## Term 1, 2025-2026

Course Code & Title:	KORE1100 Gateway to Korea		
Language of Instruction:	English	Units:	3

### Course Description

This course is designed to provide an introduction to Korean culture and society by exploring Korean history, culture, politics, and economy through lectures and discussions from interdisciplinary and cross-cultural perspectives.

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- (1) Have a basic understanding of Korean history and the key issues of contemporary Korean society;
- (2) Understand the underlying cultural and religious roots of Korean people's behavior;
- (3) Analyze issues and phenomena in Korea from a cross-cultural perspective.

### Course Syllabus

Topic	Content
Korean History	A brief history of modern and contemporary Korea
Traditional Korean Culture	Family, customs, religions, folktales and folk paintings
Contemporary Korean Society	Social issues such as compressed modernity, financial crisis and gender inequality
Korean Popular Culture	Korean cinema Renaissance, Korean Wave and K-pop

### Course Components

#### Teaching Mode

On-site face-to-face interactive classwork: 100%

#### Learning Activities

Interactive classwork[1] (hr) in / out class		Extra-curricular activities (hr) in / out class		Web-based teaching (hr) in / out class		Homework / Self-study (hr) in / out class	
3			0.5		1		3
M			O		M		M

M = Mandatory / O = Optional

[1] Interactive classwork focuses on student-centered activities as pair work, group work, role-playing and student-teacher interaction.

### Assessment Type (subject to change)

Task nature	Description	Percentage
Participation	Evaluation based on: (1) Regular class attendance (45) (2) Active participation during class (50) (3) Attendance at at least one extracurricular activity organized by the Programme (5)	10%
Midterm Quiz	Quiz will be composed of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions and short essay.	25%
Topic Proposal	In one page, students will present each group's topic, the rationale and brief outline of the presentation. (one proposal per one group) On the 10 <sup>th</sup> of October, each group will introduce their topic to get teacher's and peer feedback. (5 mins/group, PPT/visual aids are required) Failure to present will result in deduction of one third of Group Presentation letter grade.	5%
Group Presentation	Students form groups of 3-5 (totaling six groups with adjustments made	25%

	after the add/drop period) people to deliver a 20-25-minute presentation exploring Korean society and culture through <i>K-Pop Demon Hunters</i> . Each group will choose a theme about Korea from the movie (e.g., the K-pop industry, societal norms, traditional religions, folklore, language, or K-drama cliché, etc.) 10-15-minute lecture and extensive Q&A session will be followed.	
Final Exam	Three essay questions will be provided during the last lesson of the course.	35%

**Notes:**

- Students are required to arrive on time.
- Students are required to attend at least 75% of classes. Treat 75% attendance as the minimum requirement, not the maximum. The success of learning will highly depend on attendance. **Students who miss more than 25% of classes will automatically fail the course.** In case of absence, it is recommended to get informed about what content and homework missed and make it up.
- **Students are expected to submit all homework, assignments, etc. on time. Late submission will result in mark deductions unless a valid reason is provided.**
- **If a student is unable to attend any exam, they must inform the course instructor in advance and provide official supporting documentation (e.g. medical certificate). Otherwise, a make-up exam may not be granted.**

Assessment Rubrics				
General Grade Descriptors				
A	B	C	D	F
Outstanding performance in all learning outcomes and meeting all specified assessment requirements. Can fully understand and appropriately use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can ask and answer questions about personal details in a competent way. Can interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics appropriately.	Good performance in all learning outcomes. Can understand and mostly appropriately use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can ask and answer questions about personal details in a suitable way. Can interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics mostly appropriately.	Satisfactory performance in the majority of learning outcomes. Can partially understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can ask and answer questions about personal details in a basic way. Can interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics partially appropriately.	Barely satisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes. Can rarely understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Can hardly ask and answer questions about personal details. Can poorly interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.	Unsatisfactory performance in a number of learning outcomes and/or failure to meet specified assessment requirements. Cannot understand and use familiar everyday expressions and basic phrases aimed at the fulfillment of needs of a concrete type. Cannot ask and answer questions about personal details. Cannot interact in areas of immediate need or on familiar topics.

Learning Resources
<b>Required Readings and Course Materials</b>
There are no required readings for this course. However, reading resources are as below and additional reading materials will be posted on the corresponding topics on Blackboard.
<b>IT Resources</b>
Always check our e-learning site : <a href="https://elearn.cuhk.edu.hk/webapps/login/">https://elearn.cuhk.edu.hk/webapps/login/</a>
Vocabulary & Grammar : <a href="http://www.korean.go.kr">www.korean.go.kr</a>
Online dictionary : <a href="http://dic.naver.com">http://dic.naver.com</a> <a href="http://dic.daum.net">http://dic.daum.net</a> <a href="http://www.zkorean.com/dictionary">http://www.zkorean.com/dictionary</a>
Korean language learning : <a href="http://language.snu.ac.kr/site/en/klec/click-korean/index.jsp">http://language.snu.ac.kr/site/en/klec/click-korean/index.jsp</a> <a href="http://www.sejonghakdang.org/">http://www.sejonghakdang.org/</a>

<http://www.korean-language.org/>  
<http://www.lifeinkorea.com/language/korean.cfm>  
<http://www.learnkoreanlanguage.com/>

#### Readings & Library Resources

Charles Amstrong, *The Koreas* (Routledge, 2013)  
Victor Cha and Ramon Pacheco Pardo. *Korea: A New History of South and North* (Yale University Press, 2023)  
Sangjoon Lee, et al., *Rediscovering Korean Cinema* (University of Michigan Press, 2019)  
Jake Kwon. "From Squid Game to Blackpink, how South Korea became a culture powerhouse," (*BBC*, 29 Dec 2024)  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cz6jynn5w9no>  
Seung0kyung Kim and Jon Finch, "Confucian Patriarchy Reexamined: Korean Families and the IMF Economic Crisis," *The Good Society* 11:3 (2002): 43-49  
Sangjoon lee, et all., *The South Korean Film Industry* (University of Michigan Press, 2024)  
Brook Larmer, "South Korea's Most Dangerous Enemy: Demographics," (*The New York Times*, 20 February, 2018)  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/20/magazine/south-koreas-most-dangerous-enemy-demographics.html>  
Norimitsu Onishi, "Divorce in South Korea: Striking a New Attitude," (*The New York Times*, 21 September 21, 2003)  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2003/09/21/world/divorce-in-south-korea-striking-a-new-attitude.html>  
Nathan Park, "Why So Many Young Men in South Korea Hate Feminism," (*Foreign Policy*, 23 June 2021)  
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/06/23/young-south-korean-men-hate-liberals-feminists/>  
Salome Grouard, "South Korean women fight back as disillusioned young men seek to cancel feminism," (*SCMP*, 13 Nov 2021) <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/3041058/why-south-korean-women-are-turning-their-backs-sex-marriage-and>  
Youna Kim, et all., *Introducing Korean Popular Culture* (Routledge, 2023)  
Markus Nornes, et all., *Hallyu 2.0: The Korean Wave in the Age of Social Media* (University of Michigan Press, 2015)

#### Course Schedule (subject to change):

Course Schedule (subject to change)				
Week	Date	No class	Examinations & Event	Content
1	3 Sep		Screening: <i>K-pop Demon Hunters</i>	Introduction to the course
2	10 Sep			A Brief History of Modern and Contemporary Korea
3	17 Sep			Compressed Modernity: Transformation of Korean Society and Culture
4	24 Sep			IMF and Post-IMF Financial Crisis in South Korea and the Emergence of Youth Culture
5	1 Oct	Public holiday		No Class
6	8 Oct		Screening: TBA <b>Korean Night (9 Oct)</b>	Midterm Quiz (Part 1) The Two Koreas: 1945-Present (Part 2)
7	15 Oct		Topic proposal on group presentation	The Origins of the South Korean Film Renaissance
8	22 Oct			Korean Wave and the Globalization of Korean Popular Culture
9	29 Oct	Public holiday		No Class
10	5 Nov		Group presentation	Key Topics in Contemporary Korea (1): Family, Women, and Education
11	12 Nov		Group presentation	Key Topics in Contemporary Korea (2): Language, Food, and Religion
12	19 Nov			Korea in the Age of Digital Revolution
13	26 Nov			Final Exam

Note:

- In case of insufficient teaching hours, a make-up lesson will be arranged to complete the course.

**Ccourse and teachers' contact details:**

Time	No. of Weeks	Venue	Teacher	Email
We 11:30AM-02:15PM	11	FYB 401	Ms. OH Jungyun	Jungyoun.oh@gmail.com

**For further information and inquiries you are welcome to contact:**

Contact	Telephone	Email	Office
<b>Ms. CHOI Jinsuk</b> (Level Coordinator)	3943 4712	jenniferchoi@cuhk.edu.hk	G24, Leung Kau Kui Bldg. <b>Contact:</b> by prior appointment
General Office	3943 9836	lin@cuhk.edu.hk	Rm G17, Leung Kau Kui Bldg. <b>Office Hours:</b> <u>Monday to Thursday:</u> 8:45am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:30pm <u>Friday:</u> 8:45am to 1:00pm and 2:00pm to 5:45pm

**Details of Course Website**

CUHK Blackboard: <https://blackboard.cuhk.edu.hk>

**Feedback for Evaluation**

Our language programme highly values students' feedback and comments and is happy to use them for reflection on our teaching and improvement. Students are very welcome to provide comments and feedback on the course at any time to their course teacher or the course level coordinator through email or in personal conversation. In addition, students' feedbacks will be collected in the middle of the term through an open-ended questionnaire and the teacher will discuss the feedbacks in class and make improvements if necessary. The course will also follow the university's course evaluation exercise at the end of the term, and students' feedbacks will be used for future course planning and teaching.

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

- In the case of group projects, all members of the group should be asked to sign the declaration, each of whom is responsible and liable to disciplinary actions, irrespective of whether he/she has signed the declaration and whether he/she has contributed, directly or indirectly, to the problematic contents.
- For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment.
- Students are fully aware that their work may be investigated by AI content detection software to determine originality.
- Students are fully aware of the AI approach(es) adopted in the course. In the case where some AI tools are allowed, students have made proper acknowledgment and citations as suggested by the course teacher.

Assignments without a properly signed declaration will not be graded by teachers.

Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

The submission of a piece of work, or a part of a piece of work, for more than one purpose (e.g. to satisfy the requirements in two different courses) without declaration to this effect shall be regarded as having committed undeclared multiple submissions. It is common and acceptable to reuse a turn of phrase or a sentence or two from

one's own work; but wholesale reuse is problematic. In any case, agreement from the course teacher(s) concerned should be obtained prior to the submission of the piece of work.

The copyright of the teaching materials, including lecture notes, assignments and examination questions, etc., produced by staff members/ teachers of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) belongs to CUHK. Students may download the teaching materials produced by the staff members/ teachers from the Learning Management Systems, e.g. Blackboard, adopted by CUHK for their own educational use, but shall not distribute/ share/ copy the materials to a third-party without seeking prior permission from the staff members/ teachers concerned.

### **Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools in Teaching, Learning and Assessment**

#### **All use of AI tools is prohibited**

In any kind of learning activity or assessment that will be counted towards the final course grades (or used for evaluating attainment of the desired learning outcomes), students are not allowed to submit work which is produced with the collaboration of or supported by the use of any AI tools (e.g. ChatGPT).

Improper/unauthorized use of AI tools in learning activities and assessments will constitute acts of academic dishonesty and will be handled according to the University's Procedures for Handling Cases of Academic Dishonesty.

In case of queries, students should seek advice from the course teacher.

**For more information about our Korean Programme, please join us on Instagram!**

