

PIA3984: KOREAN CULTURE

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Korean Culture

Subject Code

PIA - Public and International Affairs

Course Number

3984

Academic Unit

Public and International Affairs (PIA)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Instruction

English and supplementary Korean

Medium of Assessment

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Assessment

English and supplementary Korean

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

AIS3984 Korean Culture

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course enables the students to understand how the tradition and customs of Korean influences the present day Korean culture while comparing that of their own culture and customs. The topics are arranged to examine the key elements in Korean culture which shapes distinct and unique characteristics of Korean culture, such as myths, folk beliefs and religion, customs and rituals, Confucianism and social norms, architecture and concept of space, food culture, etc. Students are encouraged to make comparison with their own culture through assignments and presentations to enhance their knowledge of own customs and culture.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Identify historical and cultural context of Korea.	30	x	x	x
2	Analyse major characteristics and ideas of traditional culture of Korea.	40	x	x	x
3	Compare tradition and customs of Korean with those of China and other cultures and recognize cross-cultural similarities and differences.	30	x	x	x

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Review of basic concepts: Presenting, explaining and discussing basic ideas and customs of traditional culture of Korea such as family system, history, religion, folk belief, art, architecture, seasonal customs, and ritual and ceremony.	1, 2, 3	

2	- Readings - Small group discussion	Analysis of contexts: Social/cultural values and religious/ philosophical concepts in different periods are explained. - Students examine and assess various aspects with the reading materials. - Students generate critical thinking to view the tradition in a social domain and compare with Chinese and other cultures in similar periods.	1, 2, 3	
3	- In-class activities - Assignments	Interactive learning: In-class activities and homework assignments to stimulate students' analytic skills and recognize key concepts of lectures and readings.	1, 2, 3	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Quizzes Ability to demonstrate one's knowledge in key concepts and major characteristics of Korean culture through written quizzes.	1, 2, 3	80	-	No
2	Assignments Ability to identify key concepts and recognize major characteristics of Korean culture through take-home assignments.	1, 2, 3	5	-	No

3	Group Presentation Ability to demonstrate knowledge a topic in depth, clarity and organization of presentation, quality of contents, and effective presentation skills will be assessed.	1, 2, 3	10	-	No
4	Participation Attendance, participation, diligence and ability to discuss, analyze and explore, ability to solve problems	1, 2, 3	5	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Quizzes

Criterion

Ability to demonstrate one' s knowledge in key concepts and major characteristics of Korean culture through written quizzes.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent command in key concepts and major characteristics of Korean culture through written quizzes.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good command in key concepts and major characteristics of Korean culture through written quizzes.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate command in key concepts and major characteristics of Korean culture through written quizzes.

Marginal (D)

Marginal command in key concepts and major characteristics of Korean culture through written quizzes.

Failure (F)

Fail to demonstrate one' s knowledge in key concepts and major characteristics of Korean culture through written quizzes.

Assessment Task

2. Assignments

Criterion

Ability to survey key concepts and major characteristics of Korean culture through take-home assignments.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent command of surveying key concepts and major characteristics of Korean culture through take-home assignments.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good command of surveying key concepts and major characteristics of Korean culture through take-home assignments.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate command of surveying key concepts and major characteristics of Korean culture through take-home assignments.

Marginal (D)

Marginal command of surveying key concepts and major characteristics of Korean culture through take-home assignments.

Failure (F)

Fail to demonstrate one's ability to survey key concepts and major characteristics of Korean culture through take-home assignments.

Assessment Task

3. Group Presentation

Criterion

Ability to demonstrate knowledge in assigned topic in depth; clarity and organization of presentation; overall quality of contents and effective presentation skills.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

Excellent command of demonstrating knowledge in assigned topic in depth; clarity and organization of presentation; overall quality of contents and effective presentation skills.

Good (B+, B, B-)

Good command of demonstrating knowledge in assigned topic in depth; clarity and organization of presentation; overall quality of contents and effective presentation skills.

Fair (C+, C, C-)

Adequate command of demonstrating knowledge in assigned topic in depth; clarity and organization of presentation; overall quality of contents and effective presentation skills.

Marginal (D)

Marginal command of demonstrating knowledge in assigned topic in depth; clarity and organization of presentation; overall quality of contents and effective presentation skills.

Failure (F)

Fail to demonstrate knowledge in assigned topic in depth; clarity and organization of presentation; overall quality of contents and effective presentation skills.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

- Foundation myths, folk beliefs, history
- Family system and kinship terms, life passage and family rituals

- Social class system
- Seasonal celebrations and customs
- Traditional cuisine, costumes, architecture, art, and music
- Religion & folk beliefs --Shamanism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucius values (chung: loyalty, hyo: filial piety)
- Cultural exchange with China and Japan

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Choi, J. S. (2005). Folk-religion: The Customs in Korea. Seoul: Ewha Womans University Press
2	The Academy of Korean Studies (2010). Exploring Korean history through world heritage. Seongnam-si : The Academy of Korean Studies Press
3	Yoon, S.; translated by Cho, Y. & Park, H. (2008). Festive occasions: the customs in Korea. Seoul: Ewha Womans University Press.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Choi, J.S. (2011). Gyeongju, the heart of Korean culture: a UNESCO world heritage. Paju-si:Hanul Publishing. Co.
2	Jeon, H. (2008) Goguryeo : in search of its culture and history. Elizabeth, N.J.: Hollym.
3	Yi, H. (2005). translated by Hur, W. J. The poetic world of classic Korean women writers. Seoul: Ewha Womans University Press
4	Yim, S., translated by Lee, J. Y. (2005) Roofs and lines: a study of Korean architecture. Seoul: Ewha Womans University Press
5	Yoo, M. & Lee, J. H. (2008). 100 Cultural Symbols of Korea. Seoul: Discovery Media
6	Cultural Heritages Administration of Korea http://english.cha.go.kr/english/new/index.action
7	Gateway to Korea http://www.korea.net/
8	National Museum of Korea http://www.museum.go.kr/site/eng/home
9	Unesco World Heritage http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/kr