



2026-2027 Korea University International Winter Campus (KU IWC)

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December 22 (Tue), 2026 - January 8 (Fri), 2027

IWC385 – Korean Film and Society

I . Instructor

Professor	Immanuel Kim
E-mail	ikim52@gwu.edu
Home Institution	The George Washington University
Class Time	9:00 – 11:55 AM (KST)
Office Hours	TBA
Class Format	In-person
Academic Field	Korean Studies, Humanities

II. Textbook

Required Textbook	All readings will be available as pdf
Recommended Additional Readings	

III. Course Description and Objectives (1 course = 3 credits)

This course examines the Global and Cross-Cultural intersection of gender, class, and nation in contemporary Korean society through the lens of Korean films. The turbulent recent history of South Korea has produced a society that is engaged with a variety of local and global social forces in complex and contradictory ways. The sweeping social changes in South Korea have redefined and re-examined the country, and its relation to such basic ideas as gender, class, tradition, and the nation. Korean films provide a gateway into these issues and how Koreans have been thinking about them within the global cross-cultural context. Students will be exposed to a variety of films that deal with various issues pertaining to tradition, national division and civil war, gender, class, and national identity. All films will have English subtitles.

****Please be advised that some of the films may contain scenes of explicit sexuality or violence.**

IV. Grading

Midterm	30%
Final	30%
Participation	10%

Group Presentation	30%
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V. Class Outline

Date	Topic	Chapter	Remarks
Dec 22 (Tue)	Introduction: History of Cinema	"A Century of Korean Film," Chonghwa Chung	
Dec 23 (Wed)	Aimless Bullet (screening/lecture) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfxIfK8ThFc&t=706s	"Postwar Dystopia, Canonicity, and Cinema Realism," Kelly Jeong	
Dec 24 (Thu)	Aimless Bullet Lecture: War Consciousness Coachman (screening) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqgB0HUFmUU	"	
Dec 25 (Fri)	NO CLASS		
Dec 28 (Mon)	Coachman (lecture): Tradition and Modernity People in the Slum (screening) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqo7KL2DrMY&t=704s		
Dec 29 (Tue)	People in the Slum (lecture): Developing Seoul, Marginalized People, and Miracle on the Han Taxi Driver (screening) https://www.amazon.com/Taxi-Driver-Kang-ho-Song/dp/B076DF3JT9		
Dec 30 (Wed)	Taxi Driver lecture: Road to Democracy, Unspoken Truths, Martial Law, and Anti- Communism MIDTERM	<i>Contentious Kwangju</i> , Shin Gi Wook	
Dec 31 (Thu)	JSA (screening)		

	JSA lecture: Changing Representations of North Korea	<i>The Remasculinization of Korean Cinema</i> , Kyung Hyun Kim	
Jan 1 (Fri)	NO CLASS		
Jan 2 (Sat)	Host (screening) Host (lecture): History of Anti-American Rhetoric in Korean Culture	Host lecture: History of Anti-American Rhetoric in Korean Culture	Make-up Class
Jan 4 (Mon)	Train to Busan (screening) Train to Busan lecture: Globalization of Cinematic Tropes, Representations of Capitalism, Sewol Ferry, and Political Distrust	"Glocalization, Korean Zombies, and a Man-Made Neoliberal Disaster," Keith Wagner	
Jan 5 (Tue)	Ode to My Father (screening) Ode to My Father lecture: Rewriting Historiography, Omitting History, and Nationalism	"Korean War Through Cinema," Kyung Hyun Kim	
Jan 6 (Wed)	Final Exam Review Final Exam		
Jan 7 (Thu)	Group Presentations		
Jan 8 (Fri)	Group Presentations		