HIEA 151

The Two Koreas, 1945-Present: Topics in Popular Culture

Instructor: Han Sang Kim (hsk029@ucsd.edu)
Course Hours and Venue: TTh 12:30-1:50PM, PCYNH 121
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:00-4:00PM, H&SS1109; additional hours by appointment

Course Description

This course aims to map the cultural and ideological elements that functioned as a strategic means during the Cold War to help students better understand the cultural transformation of Korean society as the world order changed. The class will explore sentiments and ideas exemplified in typical cultural products, such as literature, film, radio and television shows, leaflets and posters, as well as examine the systems and institutions that are the cultivated soil for cultural offensives of the Cold War’s rival superpowers. The course will make students more aware of the forces that have shaped and twisted the culture of the Korean Peninsula, and gain a deeper appreciation of the consumers of that culture as active participants.

Required Texts:


All other readings will be posted on the course website (TED).

Course Requirements

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes. Missing more than two classes will result in a grade penalty.

Reading/Viewing: Students are expected to come to class having read/viewed the assigned texts and films, ready to actively participate in discussion.
Reading and film responses: Each student will complete a minimum of five out of nine reading and film responses online on TED. Each response will be DUE by every midnight that ends Monday.

Mid-term paper: Students will write a book report essay (7-8 pages) on The Square and Your Republic is Calling You. DUE by midnight of May 5 (not the midnight ending May 4).

Final exam: Students will complete a take home essay (5-7 pages). The prompt will be distributed during Week 6. DUE by June 8 at 11:30AM.

Style guide: All the essays must be typed double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. The bibliography pages may be added, but will not be counted.

Email policy: Students must check their email regularly. The instructor may email announcements and updates to the syllabus. Students may email the instructor to discuss course logistics or to schedule an appointment to meet outside of the office hours. Please allow the instructor for at least 24 hours to respond.

Academic Integrity: Please refer to the UCSD Policy on Academic Integrity.

http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/appendices/2

Grading breakdown:
- Attendance and participation in class: 20%
- Reading responses: 25%
- Mid-term paper: 25%
- Final exam: 30%

Course Schedule

Week 1 – Introduction

March 31 Cultural Cold War in Korea (No reading)

April 2 The Other Cold War


*Film: Welcome to Dongmakgol (2005) → Reserved for the library streaming service.

Week 2 – Colonial Legacy

April 7 Postcolonial Nation-Building


April 9 National Mobilization


*Film: Angels on the Street (1941) https://youtu.be/GU9FzLOhIhI


Week 3 – The Unending Korean War

April 14 Enemy Within


April 16 Scars of War


*Film: The Aimless (Stray)Bullet (1960) https://youtu.be/1S3srD7qx9c

### Week 4 – *Saemaul*: Militarized Modernity in South Korea

**April 21 Militarized Modernity and Its Gender Politics**


**April 23 South Korea in the Global Cold War**


*Film: Yeongja’s Heyday (1975) [https://youtu.be/nN_pbS1FzSE](https://youtu.be/nN_pbS1FzSE)*


### Week 5 – *Juche*: The Kim Cult in North Korea

**April 28 Nation of the Sun King**


**April 30 The Modern Theater State**


*Film: The Flower Girl (1972) → Reserved for the library streaming service.*

*Novel (Continue): Kim, Young-ha. 2006 (2010). *Your Republic is Calling You.*
Week 6 – Democratization and Anti-Americanism in South Korea

May 5 Midterm Paper (no class)

Each student must submit a book report essay (7-8 pages) on The Square and Your Republic is Calling You by midnight of May 5 (not the midnight before the date)

May 7 A Revolutionary Impulse Until 1991


Week 7 – A Cold War in the Post-Cold War Era

May 12 The Sunshine Decade and Its Termination


May 14 Representation of the “Other” Korea


Week 8 – Zainichi: A Diaspora of the Two Koreas

May 19  Another Cold War


May 21  Representing Zainichi


*Film: Go! (2001) → Reserved for the library streaming service.


Week 9 – North Korean Defectors to South Korea

May 26  Nothing to Envy


May 28  A New Diaspora


*Film: Journals of Musan (2010) → Reserved for the library streaming service.
Week 10 – North Korea’s Images in American Media

June 2 Post-Cold War Enemy Images


June 4 Mocking Kim Jong-Un


*Film: The Interview (2014) → Reserved for the library streaming service.

Week 11 – Final Paper

Each student must complete a take home essay (5-7 pages) according to the prompt distributed during Week 6. DUE by June 8 at 11:30AM.