Korean Cinema and Contemporary Korean Society
Prof. Jeeyoung Shin, KAIST

SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will explore diverse aspects of South Korean society since the early 2000s through careful readings of a selection of cinematic texts. Key issues on which we will focus include: democratization and neoliberal globalization, multiculturalism, the discourse on colonial history, inter-Korean relations, gender and sexuality, social stratification, the changing Korean family and the millennial generation, and the slow movement. Students will study these crucial issues in Korean society, and reflect on the ever-changing discursive conceptions of those issues.

READING MATERIALS
All readings will be posted online.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING
All ISS course grades are either Pass (60% or above) or Fail (below 60%).

1. Attendance and Participation 20%
SKKU regulations require students to attend at least 80% of all classes. Being late twice will count as one absence. Students should come to class prepared to discuss all the readings and films assigned for that day. Part of the final grade will be based on your participation, which involves not only presence and preparation, but also frequent and significant contributions to class discussions.

2. Short Film Responses 25%
Students will write five short film responses (200-300 words), and upload them online before each class. Informed by the assigned reading(s), these responses should focus on certain aspects of the film in relation to the topic for the day.

3. Group Project/Presentation 30%
The class will be divided into groups of four students, and each group will give a 20-minute presentation on a relevant topic at the end of the course. Each group must also submit a two-page written summary of the presentation.

4. Final Exam 25%
There will be a comprehensive final exam, the format of which will be a mixture of multiple choice, identification, and short essay questions. It will cover class materials, including assigned readings, lectures, screenings, and class discussions. A review sheet will be provided on July 13.

COURSE SCHEDULE

– WEEK I –
Thursday (25 June)
• Course Overview: Key Issues in Contemporary South Korea

Friday (26 June)
• Globalization and Neoliberal Capitalism in Post-Democratization South Korea
- Default (Choi Guk-hee, 2018)
  - Michael Robinson, Korea’s Twentieth Century Odyssey: A Short History (2007), pp. 167-181

-- WEEK II --

Monday (29 June)
- New Conceptions of National Division
  - Welcome to Dongmakgol (Park Kwang-hyeon, 2005)


Tuesday (30 June)
- Reimagining Colonial Korea in the 2000s
  - Modern Boy (Jeong Ji-u, 2008)

Wednesday (1 July)
- Queer Expression and Cultural Hybridity
  - The King and the Clown (Yi Jun-ik, 2005)


Thursday (2 July)
- Class Divide in Neoliberal, Globalizing South Korea
  - Parasite (Bong Jun-ho, 2019)


-- WEEK III --

Monday (6 July)
- South Korean Millennials
  - Microhabitat (Jeon Go-eun, 2017)


Tuesday (7 July)
- Globalization and Multicultural Family
  - Punch (Yi Han, 2011)

**Wednesday (8 July)**
- North Korean Defectors in Multicultural South Korea; Neoliberalism and the Korean Family
  - *Secret Reunion* (Jang Hun, 2010)


**Thursday (9 July)**
- Remembering Comfort Women for the Post-Memory Generation
  - *I Can Speak* (Kim Hyeon-seok, 2017)


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**Week IV**

**Monday (13 July)**
- Nationalist Narratives of Colonial History in the 2010s
  - *Assassin* (Choi Dong-hun, 2015)

**Tuesday (14 July)**
- The Slow Movement
  - *Little Forest* (Im Sun-rye, 2018)


**Wednesday (15 July)**
Group Project Presentations

**Thursday (16 July)**
Group Project Presentations

**Friday (17 July)**
Final Exam