KOR/SLC/HON/SGS/FMS 394: Korean Film Directors
Fall 2024
TTh 1:30 pm – 2:45 pm DH 108

General Studies Designations: HUAD & HU

Contact Information
Instructor: Areum Jeong
Office Location: Durham Hall 307F
Email: areum.jeong@asu.edu
Office Hours: TTh 10 am – 11 am
If the instructor’s regular office hours are not convenient for the student, an appointment outside those times can be set up. The student should contact the instructor via email for an appointment or for other questions and problems. The instructor will try to return the email within 24 hours.

Course Description
What happens when socially and politically informed filmmakers are free to explore new themes and are no longer obligated to speak for their nation or people in the 21st century? This course offers a broad overview of three Korean “commercial auteurs”—Bong Joon-ho, Kim Jee-woon, and Park Chan-wook—and their works. These three filmmakers created films of a “highly distinctive character within the confines of the mainstream industry, and they are responsible for giving New Korean Cinema some of its most memorable films. Their films are described to be “well-made” as a commercial feature that makes use of defined genres and star system, but which contains both a distinctive directorial style and commentary on social issues” (Paquet 2009: 93-95).
Focusing on the major works of Bong, Kim, and Park, this course analyzes both of the development of contemporary Korean film and its relationship with aspects of Korean culture and society. In addition, the course will include a strong writing component; discussion and written assignments will focus both on the films themselves as well as on related critical texts.

No Korean language ability is required; no background knowledge in Korean culture or history is assumed; all course materials are in English.

Credits: 3 credit hours

Course Objectives
● Students will identify sociocultural contexts that generated the Korean film industry as conscious consumer-scholars that reflect on and account for its globalization.
● Students will develop skills in formal analysis and improve critical writing with an emphasis on developing thesis-driven arguments.
● Students will rehearse the presentation of their own research and develop skills in oral presentation.

Learning Outcomes
● Students will be able to appropriately respond to various sociocultural contexts through the assigned readings and film viewings.
● Students will be able to make connections between filmmaking styles and techniques and reflect on the contexts that generated the Korean film industry.
● Students will be able to write thesis-driven arguments through critical reading and thinking.
Students will be able to identify not only the aesthetics of contemporary Korean cinema, but also the relationship between cultural production and national and global histories, and the ways in which such cultural products represent elements of those histories.

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

**Interpretive Communication**

- **CLO1:** Identify some basic facts from memorized or familiar words and phrases when they are supported by gestures or visuals in informational or fictional texts.
- **CLO2:** Identify some basic facts from memorized or familiar words and phrases when they are supported by gestures or visuals in conversations.

**Interpersonal Communication**

- **CLO3:** Express basic needs related to familiar and everyday activities, using a mixture of practiced or memorized words, phrases, simple sentences, and questions.
- **CLO4:** Express my own preferences or feelings and react to those of others, using a mixture of practiced or memorized words, phrases, simple sentences, and questions.

**Presentational Communication**

- **CLO5:** Present information about myself, my interests and my activities using a mixture of practiced or memorized words, phrases and simple sentences.
- **CLO6:** Express my likes and dislikes on very familiar and everyday topics of interest, using a mixture of practiced or memorized words, phrases and simple sentences.

**Intercultural Communication**

- **CLO7:** Identify some typical products and practices related to familiar everyday life.
- **CLO8:** Communicate with others from the target culture in familiar everyday situations, using memorized language and showing basic cultural awareness.

**Textbooks and Required Purchases**

Students are not required to purchase a textbook or learning materials for this course, as all materials will be provided in Canvas.

**Course Assignments**

**Weekly Canvas Posts (30%)**

Write a short (300-400 words) response to the week’s prompt/question on Canvas by 9 pm, the day before class. Each week’s prompt/question will be posted on Canvas as a new discussion forum, and you will be required to write and post your answer as a thread. You are required to post 10 times out of the 12 forums. See appendix for grading rubric.

**Group Presentation (20%)**

Present on one of the films below in relation to the course texts and prepare 2-3 questions to lead the discussion. An ideal presentation ties the case study into the course texts, provides visual resources (images, video, etc.), and opens up deeper questions to the entire class to think together on. In addition, your group must submit a short essay (3-5 pages max, double-spaced, size 12, Times New Roman) that summarizes the presentation’s key points, linking the observations to relevant themes or theoretical tools.


**Final Project Proposal (5%)**

Submit your project topic and proposal by Week 12. You are free to explore a topic of your choice, but all topics (and topic changes) must be approved by the instructor.
**Final Project Presentation (5%)**
Present a work-in-progress of your final project.

**Final Project (40%)**
Submit a creative work in any medium expressing your own understanding of a film examined in the course. Write a 3-5 page statement explaining your project. Previous examples of students’ projects include a board game for *Snowpiercer*, a fifteen-minute short film of *The Handmaiden* set in the present, a series of hand-drawn postcards retelling the events in *The Thirst*, a restaurant menu for Park Chan-wook’s films, and a theme park design of *The Good, The Bad, The Weird*.

**Course Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Modules</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tr>
<td>7: A Bittersweet Life (2005)</td>
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| **Assigned viewing:** A Bittersweet Life (2005) 
**Assigned reading:** Susie Jie Young Kim, “Noir Looks and the Flash of Transgression: Trauma and the City’s Edge(s) in A Bittersweet Life,” in eds. Yomi Braester and James Tweedle, Cinema at the City’s Edge: Film and Urban Networks in East Asia, Hong Kong University Press, 2010, pp. 119-136. |

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<th>8: The Age of Shadows (2016)</th>
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| **Assigned viewing:** The Age of Shadows (2016) 

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<tr>
<th>9: Screening and virtual Q&amp;A with Director Kim*</th>
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<td><strong>Post questions for Director Kim on Canvas.</strong></td>
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| **Assigned viewing:** Memories of Murder (2003) 

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<th>11: The Host (2006)</th>
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| **Assigned viewing:** The Host (2006) 

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<th>12: Snowpiercer (2013)</th>
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| **Assigned viewing:** Snowpiercer (2013) 
**Final Project proposal due** |
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<td><strong>14: Group Presentations</strong></td>
<td>• Submit slides and summary on Canvas.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>15: Final Project Presentations</strong></td>
<td>• Submit slides and summary on Canvas.</td>
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<td><strong>16: Wrap-up</strong></td>
<td>• Final Project due</td>
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* Virtual Q&As are subject to the guest speaker’s schedule and specific circumstances, and are therefore, tentative.

**Late or Missed Assignments**  
Published assignment due dates (Arizona time) are firm.

**Submitting Assignments**  
All online assignments MUST be submitted via the associated assignment submission feature in Canvas. Do NOT submit an assignment via email.

**Grading Scale**

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97% - 100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94% - &lt;97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90% - &lt;94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87% - &lt;90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84% - &lt;87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80% - &lt;84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76% - &lt;80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% - &lt;76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - &lt;70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>0% - &lt;60%</td>
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**Grade Appeals**  
Grade disputes must first be addressed by discussing the situation with the instructor. If the dispute is not resolved with the instructor, the student may appeal to the department chair per the University Policy for Student Appeal Procedures on Grades.

**Drop/Add and Withdrawal Dates**  
This course adheres to a compressed schedule and may be part of a sequenced program, therefore, there is a limited timeline to drop or add the course. Students should consult with their assigned academic advisor and notify their instructor to add or drop this course. If a student is considering a withdrawal, please review the following ASU policies: Withdrawal from Classes, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, and a Grade of Incomplete.

**Communication and Technology Requirements**  
Canvas Email/Messages is an official means of communication among students, faculty, and staff. Students are expected to read and act upon messages in a timely fashion. Students bear the
Responsibility of missed messages and should check their ASU-assigned email regularly. All instructor correspondence will be sent to students via their ASU email account.

This course requires a computer with Internet access and the following:
- Web browsers (Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, or Safari)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (free)
- Webcam, microphone, headset/earbuds, and speaker
- Microsoft Office or Google Drive (Microsoft 365 and Google Drive are free for all currently-enrolled ASU students)
- Reliable broadband internet connection (DSL or cable) to stream videos.

Note: A smartphone, iPad, Chromebook, etc. may not be sufficient for completing work in ASU courses. While students will be able to access course content with mobile devices, students must use a computer for all assignments, quizzes and exams, and virtual labs.

Technical Support
This course uses Canvas to deliver content. It can be accessed through the MyASU portal at http://my.asu.edu or the Canvas home page at https://myasucourses.asu.edu. For technology support or other services, go to your MyASU portal and click on the HELP tab—or contact the ASU Experience Center. Go to https://tech.asu.edu/services/ec for email and live chat options. Phone: 1-855-278-5080 or +1-480-965-6500.

Language Tutoring and Other Campus Resources
SILC Learning Support Services offers free language tutoring services. They provide both face-to-face and online tutoring. To check their schedule and sign-up for a tutoring session, go to https://silc.asu.edu/learning-support-services/tutoring (scroll down to find the schedule for tutors in the student’s target language).

Please refer to the following additional resources available to ASU students:
- ASU Academic Success Program (tutoring)
- Counseling Services
- Financial Aid
- Disability Resource Center
- Major & Career Exploration
- Career Services
- Student Organizations

Absences
Excessive unexcused absences can and will adversely affect students’ final grades in the course, since oral work done in class cannot be made up. Absences may be excused on a case by case basis. Extenuating circumstances should be discussed with the instructor. However, that does not guarantee that an exception will be made.

Documentation will be required by the instructor in order to excuse student absences. Students must email or call the instructor to arrange for makeup work if necessary. Students will receive a participation grade for every class session in addition to grades received for other work completed in class (i.e. written assignments, presentations, group work, etc.). If a student is absent (without a doctor’s note), the homework should not be submitted late.

Excessive tardiness will adversely affect students’ grades. Being late for class will cause a loss of participation points. Other graded activities might be given at the beginning of class, so make sure to be on time. Extenuating circumstances may be explained to the instructor but documentation will be required.

Students who need to be absent from class due to religious observances (ACD 304–04:...
Accommodations for Religious Practices) or due to participation in university-sanctioned activities (ACD 304–02: Missed Classes Due to University-Sanctioned Activities) should notify the instructor at the beginning of the semester about the need to be absent from class and make arrangements to make up missed assignments and in-class work.

**Academic Integrity**

Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, and laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal from ASU. For more information, see [http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity](http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity).

A student may be found to have engaged in academic dishonesty if, in connection with any academic evaluation or academic or research assignment (including a paid research position), he or she engages in any form of academic deceit, refers to materials/sources or uses devices (e.g., computer disks, audio recorders, camera phones, text messages) not authorized by the instructor for use during the evaluation or assignment; possesses, reviews, buys, sells, obtains, or uses, without appropriate authorization, any materials intended to be used for an evaluation or assignment in advance of its administration; acts as a substitute for another person in any academic evaluation or assignment; uses a substitute in any academic evaluation or assignment; depends on the aid of others, including other students or tutors, in connection with any evaluation or assignment to the extent that the work is not representative of the student's abilities; engages in plagiarism; uses materials from the Internet or any other source without full and appropriate attribution; permits his or her work to be submitted by another person in connection with any academic evaluation or assignment, without authorization; claims credit for or submits work done by another; signs an attendance sheet for another student, allows another student to sign on the student's behalf, or otherwise participates in gaining credit for attendance for oneself or another without actually attending.

Students are not allowed to use online translators or ask tutors to copy-edit their written assignments. Students are encouraged to use good dictionaries, their textbooks, and other reference materials.

**Accommodating Students with Disabilities**

Students who feel they will need disability accommodations in this class but have not registered with the Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services should contact SAILS immediately. The SAILS Tempe office is located on the first floor of the Matthew Center Building. SAILS staff can also be reached at (480) 965-1234 (v) or (480) 965-9000 (TTY). For additional information visit: [https://eoss.asu.edu/accessibility](https://eoss.asu.edu/accessibility).

**Expected Classroom Behavior**

Be sure to arrive on time for class. Excessive tardiness will be subject to sanctions. Any disruptive behavior, which includes ringing cell phones, text messaging, constant talking, eating food noisily, reading a newspaper, will not be tolerated. The use of laptops (unless for note taking), cell phones, etc. are strictly prohibited during class.

**Policy against Threatening Behavior**

All incidents and allegations of violent or threatening conduct by an ASU student (whether on or off campus) must be reported to the ASU Police Department (ASU PD) and the Office of the Dean of Students. If either office determines that the behavior poses or has posed a serious threat to personal safety or to the welfare of the campus, the student will not be permitted to return to campus or reside in any ASU residence hall until an appropriate threat assessment has been completed and, if necessary, conditions for return are imposed. ASU PD, the Office of the Dean of Students, and other appropriate offices will coordinate the assessment in light of the relevant circumstances.
Reporting Title IX Violations
Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs.

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling, is available if you wish to discuss any concerns confidentially and privately. ASU online students may access 360 Life Services, https://goto.asuonline.asu.edu/success/online-resources.html.

Policy on Sexual Discrimination
Arizona State University is committed to providing an environment free of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for the entire university community, including all students, faculty members, staff employees, and guests. ASU expressly prohibits discrimination, harassment, and retaliation by employees, students, contractors, or agents of the university based on any protected status: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and genetic information.

Copyrighted Materials
All content in this course, including video lectures/meetings, presentations, assignments, discussions, quizzes, and exams is protected by copyright and may not be shared, uploaded, sold, or distributed.

Students must refrain from uploading or submitting material that is not the student's original work to any website, course shell, or discussion used in this course or any other course unless the students first comply with all applicable copyright laws. Instructors reserve the right to delete materials on the grounds of suspected copyright infringement. Any recording of class sessions by students is prohibited, except as part of an accommodation approved by the Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning Services.

Syllabus Disclaimer
The syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule, but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Please remember to check your ASU email and the course site often.