



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

ASIA_V 327 - Korean Popular Music in Context

Hyejin Jo

This course will explore South Korean pop music from the early 1990s to the present, primarily focusing on K-pop (idol music). Students are not expected to have an in-depth familiarity with Korean music, history, culture, or language. The course will provide a comprehensive, integrated, and critical perspective to better understand contemporary Korean pop music as a global cultural phenomenon within the broader context of the Korean Wave (Hallyu). The class will investigate how Korean pop music is situated and contextualized alongside Korean cultural industries, government policies, media systems, and transnational audience culture. Topics may encompass significant theoretical frameworks that contribute to Korean pop music and examine socio-cultural issues embedded in cultural production and consumption practices.

Mode of Delivery: Online. All lectures are delivered asynchronously using Zoom. All course materials, including recordings, are electronically available on Canvas.

Sample Readings

Kim, S.-Y. (2018). K-pop live: Fans, idols, and multimedia performance (pp. 25-52). Stanford University Press.

Oh, C. (2023). K-pop Dance: Fandoming Yourself on Social Media (pp. 47-73). Routledge.

Kwon, J. (2023). Kueer-pop for another world: Toward a theorization of gender and sexuality in K-pop. *International Journal of Communication*, 17, 52–71.

Assignments

Quizzes | 20%

Reading Reflection | 25%

Comparative Analysis of K-pop Idols | 25%

Take-Home Final Exam | 30%