



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

ASIA_V 356 - Korean Cinema

Ji-yoon An

This course is an introductory survey of Korean cinema. We will begin with the 1900s when cinema first entered Korea, soon followed by the emergence of a national film industry during the colonial period. Korea had its first cinematic boom in the 1950s and 1960s, known as the Golden Age. Since then, Korean cinema has undergone major changes, from the severe censorship during the Park Chung Hee era that almost killed the industry, to the '3 S' policy of the Chun Doo Hwan era that fostered a soft-pornographic era, to a full throttle industrial comeback in the 1990s that has led to global popularity. We will consider not only the making but also the legacy of a national cinema, as well as the reflections that the medium of cinema offers on Korean society's engagement with modernity and democracy. Upon completion of the course, students should have a thorough grasp of Korean cinema's major developments, in addition to an understanding of the main debates in East Asian film studies.

Mode of Delivery: In-person

Sample Readings

Yecies, Brian and Ae-Gyung Shim (2011). "Foreign Cinematic Spaces and the Birth of the Film Industry, 1905-1916." *Korea's Occupied Cinema, 1893-1948*, Routledge, p. 41-66.

Klein, Christina (2020). "The Après Girl: Character and Plot." In *Cold War Cosmopolitanism: Period Style in 1950s Korean Cinema*, University of California Press, p. 85-107.

Paquet, Darcy (2009). "The Boom." In *New Korean Cinema: Breaking the Waves*, Wallflower Press, p. 61-91.

Assignments

Attendance (from Week 3 onwards) | 5%

Weekly self-study quiz (Weeks 3 to 13) | 15%

Short-Answer Responses (200-250 words each, total: 4) | 20%

Screening Report (500-600 words) | 20%

Final Paper: Proposal, 1:1 Discussion, Final Research Paper | 10%, 5%, 25% respectively

Bonus Points | up to 8%