KOR 4500 Syllabus

Intercultural Seminar, Section H, 3 credits

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| Instructor | Email | Office Hours & Location |
| Yongtaek Kim | ykim791@gatech.edu | T/R 1:20 ~ 2:20 PM @ SWANN 309 |

**Course Description**

KOR 4500 is designed as an intercultural seminar which aims to develop students’ cultural fluency, by which they can analyze the differences and similarities between Korean culture and their own native culture, , fully appreciate both on the basis of unbiased views, and equip them with enhanced intercultural communication skills and competences required in a globalized context of business, research, and politics.

This course provides students with opportunities to integrate their theoretical intercultural knowledge with practical skills of communication, behaviors, and interactions by putting them in simulated settings of social communities, business places, and intercultural meetings, all based on their previous study-abroad experiences.

Students will, additionally, meet, interview, and interact with people in local communities and businesses to produce a case study on their chosen intercultural topic in varied fields such as businesses, education, social issue or politics, domestic matters, and international issues.

## Pre- &/or Co-Requisites: Students with a good level of experience in Korea such as those who attended a summer study-abroad program or an exchange program in Korea or those with equivalent knowledge or experience.

## Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

* Identify the differences and similarities between the Korean and US cultures including business transactions, verbal and non-verbal interactions;
* Recognize that the typical responses or behavior patterns of each cultural may vary and better appreciate both cultures;
* Enhance their intercultural knowledge and competence by developing their intercultural communications skills verbal and non-verbal; and
* Discuss issues on practical topics of industry, economy, politics, or their chosen research fields.

**Course Materials & Text:**

There is no required textbook for this course but all the relevant materials will be posted on Canvas.

**Grade Distribution**

**60% Assignments and Class Participation**

(1) Homework (20%)

(2) Research (10%)

(3) Individual Presentations (20%)

(4) Class participation (10%)

**40% Tests and Projects**

1. Midterm: intercultural communication theory, expressions, knowledge of Korean cultural history, society, etc. (20%)
2. Final: multimedia project (20%) (Video presentations on interactions with people in local Korean American communities)

**Class Participation**

**Students are expected to attend ALL classes. PENALTIES** will be subtracted from the averaged total score if students have **MORE THAN TWO UNEXCUSED ABSENCES.**   **For up to TWO** **unexcused absences,** students will not be penalized**. From the third unexcused absence, one additional absence will lower students’ averaged total score for participation by one point.**  Students who are absent because of approved Institute activities (such as field trips, professional conferences, and athletic events) will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absences. Approval of such activities will be granted by the Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate, and the statements of the approved absence may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar. <http://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/>

Students are expected to be in class on time. Any unexcused tardiness will **NOT** be excused

(If you are late for class by more than 15 minutes, you will get **only a half-credit** for the day.)

Students are supposed to participate in at least each of one group discussion and one presentation to receive a full participation point. If students engage in activities which indicate their **inattention or non-participation** in the classroom activities (e.g. falling asleep, text-messaging, doing homework, reading irrelevant materials, etc.), they will receive **a daily participation score of 7 or below**.

**Course Requirements and Policies**

**A. Students’ responsibilities**

**Assignments**

It is students’ responsibility to check Announcements on Canvas often for assignments and their due dates.  All assignments are expected to be submitted electronically (or in hard copies for some permitted students only) under Homework threads on Canvas on or before the due date (electronic submission records will help you manage your homework submission). O.5 will be subtracted for any late homework (No late work will be accepted THREE DAYS after the due date). The evaluated scores of your HW will be updated on Canvas on a regular basis. It is students’ responsibility to keep track of all grades online and report errors or discrepancies immediately to the instructor.

**1) Homework (20%)**

After each class, students are asked to write review essays on the topics covered in class. Each homework will be graded from 0 (F) to 10 (A) scale, based on completeness and correctness. Final average will be based on the overall average.

**2) Research (10%)**

Students are asked to do research on given topics or issues discussed in class (e.g. finding differences and similarities in Korean and American cultures, etc.) and turn in the research results. Data should be authentic and efficiently support the research. The paper should be cohesive and easily understandable. Language and grammar should be communicatively precise.

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| Evaluation Components | Weight (%) |
| Content (quality of data gathered) | 40 |
| Clarity (understandability and coherence) | 30 |
| Accuracy (language, grammar) | 30 |

**3) Individual Presentation (20%)**

Students will pick their topics on intercultural issues in the fields of businesses, education, social issue or politics, domestic matters, international issues/relations, etc. and conduct research and present their findings in class. Students will submit their presentation topic by the end of the second week of the course and based upon the number of the students and the topics, the individual presentation date for each student will be decided and will be announced on Canvas by the end of the first month of the course.

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| Evaluation Components | | Weight (%) |
| Relevance of the topic | | 20 |
| Quality of written report | |  |
|  | Researched data and their interpretation | 20 |
|  | Quality of language use | 20 |
| Oral presentation | |  |
|  | Clarity (clear articulation, coherence) | 20 |
|  | Delivery (proper ways/ methods, effective use of presentation tools) | 20 |

**3) Class participation / activities** **(10%)**

Students are expected to actively participate in class activities such as group presentations, discussions, online postings, etc**.** Additionally, students will post on discussion topics on Canvas 2-3 times weekly; the number of students’ postings on discussion topics on Canvas and in-class discussions and activities will all be counted.

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| Number of postings/discussions | Score (out of 10%) |
| 40 and more | 10 |
| 30 to 39 | 8 |
| 20 to 29 | 6 |
| 10 to 19 | 4 |
| 4 to 9 | 2 |
| 0 to 3 | 0 |

**B. Quizzes and exams**

**1) Midterm (20%)**:

Students will be tested on their knowledge and understanding on:

* Intercultural communication theory
* Korean culture/history/expressions

**2) Multimedia Project (20%):**

Near the end of the semester, students will choose a topic and have opportunities to meet Korean American people in local communities and businesses and record their interactions or findings in a multimedia format (it could take the form of parody, skit, or voice-over, recordings, etc.). Detailed guidelines for the final group project will be provided in class.

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| Evaluation Components | | Weight (%) |
| Quality of problem statement | | 10 |
| Quality of research | | 20 |
| Integration and interpretation of field data | | 20 |
| Quality of produced multimedia material | |  |
|  | Completeness of the product | 15 |
|  | Quality of language use and effective use of the multimedia | 15 |
| Oral presentation | |  |
|  | Clarity (clear articulation, coherence) | 10 |
|  | Delivery (proper ways/ methods, effective use of presentation tools) | 10 |

**C. Late work**

Late work should be turned in **by no later than THREE (3) DAYS** after the due date to receive half points. Late work after the grace period will not be accepted. Only under extreme circumstances (presented with proper documents), make-up tests will be given.

**D. Record Keeping**

Students are asked to keep all documents (i.e., assignments, handouts, etc.) returned to them. These documents will be used to prepare for exams.  If there is a discrepancy between the posted grade and the student’s, it is student’s responsibility to provide documentation of the assignments/tests.  **Every assignment is strongly recommended to be submitted electronically for record.**

## E. Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/ or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

## F. Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

**G. Grading Scale**

Students’ final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F 0-59%

**H. Course Schedule**

Week 1: Course introduction, syllabus, handout

Understanding a different culture: Why is it difficult?

The elements of intercultural communication

Week 2: Cultural history: The US & Korea – cultural personality shaped by history/tradition

Liberation of Korea and Korean War (history): How the relation between the two countries was strengthened

How the Korean people accepted American culture (system)

Assignment 1: American culture to Korean – research on Korean history.

Week 3: Cultural language: the characteristics of Korean language

Collectivism in possessive expressions: our house, our family, etc.

Background at the beginning of the sentence: “Here is my house”

Assignment 2: Research on Korean expressions different/unique

Week 4: Social/Cultural values: What matters most (in the US and in Korea)?

Assignment 3: Difference in social values (Education, Sports?)

Week 5: Conformity to majority? What are the social norms?

Assignment 4: How to get dressed/ behave in a certain situation/context? Are there norms? (Comparison between American and Korean systems)

Week 6: Social and business contexts (corporate culture) and expected roles and expressions

Honorifics / Do’s and Don’t’s

Assignment 5: Research on local Korean companies and cultural problems/issues those

companies have experienced

Week 7: When conflict arises: Understanding the differences: Oriental/Korean vs. Western/US

Intracultural and intercultural perspectives

How to resolve conflicts: Communication Skills

Assignment 6: Expressions useful in business/social contexts

Week 8: Non-verbal communication: Do actions speak louder than words?

Assignment 7: Research on behavior/response patterns in specific contexts: US vs. Korean

Midterm

Week 9: Korean political and economic growth and culture: BBALI BBALI

Assignment 8: How bbali bbali culture affected the Korean society?

Week 10: Rapid social changes and the coming of the new generations: K-pop and hip pop

Assignment 9: What cultural exchanges between Korea and the US have been experienced?

Pop music, movies, etc.?

Week 11: Religions of Korea I (history)

Taoism, Buddhism

Expressions and ways of thinking related to the religions

Assignment 10: How Taoism and Buddhism affected the Korean society?

Week 12: Religions of Korea II (history)

Confucianism (and social values: Sa, Nong, Gong, Sang, etc.)

Assignment 11: How Confucianism affected the Korean society

Week 13: Korea, Korean-American, and American culture:

Conflicts and solutions (domestic, social, political issues)

Assignments 12: Case studies

Week 14: Research and Discussions 1

Types of jokes in Korea and How Koreans respond to jokes

Assignment: 13: Case studies (Difference between American and Korean)

Week 15: Research and Discussions II

Sustainable Development in Korean / US contexts: Korea – US Free Trade Agreement

Assignment: Research on relations among Korean and American companies and trades between the two countries

Week 16: Final project presentations.