

LMC 3257: Global Cinema – Korean Cinema
Fall 2026

Instructor: Qi Wang

Course description: This course offers a comprehensive, in-depth study of important topics in the history of Korean cinema from the 1920s to the present. Topics to be covered include: Colonial Korea (under Japanese Empire, 1905/1910-1945); Independence/Resistance and Nationalism; the Korean War (1950-1953) and its legacy; the Golden Age of Korean Melodrama in the 1950s; Women and Gender; (Compressed) Modernization, Dictatorship, and Democratic Movement (1960s-1980s); the Korean New Wave (1987-1997); the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis (resulting in South Korea's IMF bailout) and its legacy; Class Criticism; Traditional Culture (e.g. Shamanism and Buddhism); the Korean Diaspora (especially *Joseonjok*/Korean Chinese and *Zainichi*/Koreans-in-Japan). Lectures and discussions on these topics will be accompanied by screenings and close analyses of films by major Korean directors such as Yu Hyun-mok, Kim Ki-young, Im Kwon-tae, Park Kwang-su, Lee Chang-dong, Bong Joon-ho, Park Chan-wook, and Hong Sang-soo.

Learning Outcomes:

- Textual/Visual Analysis
- Interpretive Frameworks
- Historical Analysis
- Literary/Narrative/Visual Art Inquiry
- Communication Skills

Course Materials Required to be Purchased:

- **Textbook:** *Rediscovering Korean Cinema*, edited by Sangjoon Lee, University of Michigan Press, 2019. You can access a digital version of the textbook through GT library online. You can also choose to purchase a physical copy at Barnes & Noble at Georgia Tech or order a copy on your own. (Note: a few short stories by Korean writers may also be assigned for study. Library online access to those will be clarified when the semester actually begins.)
- **Films:** While some of the films required for weekly screenings may be accessed through free streaming, please be prepared to pay to watch some other titles at venues like Amazon Prime, Youtube, or the Criterion Channel. Streaming access details will be provided when the semester starts.

Grading Policy:

This course offers final letter grades in accordance with GT's general grading policy:

- A (Excellent)
- B (Good)
- C (Satisfactory)
- D (Passing)
- F (Failure)

The calculation of the final grade is based on the sum total of grades given to the following requirements and assignments. (**Please note that small adjustments may be made after the semester actually starts when the instructor will have a better understanding of the learning backgrounds and creative interests of the enrolled students.*)

- (30%) Attendance to lectures and participation in classroom discussions.
- (25%) Weekly homework in the form of watching a required feature-length film, doing required reading, and providing written responses to designated questions in relation to the film and reading. A minimum of seven to eight written responses are required.
- (30%) A major project in the form of a Research Essay or an Originally Created Short Film. Group work on this major project is encouraged.
- (15%) A final Personal Reflection Essay in which students reflect on their learning from the course and/or develop a research/reading/screening plan on a topic of personal interest that grows out of learning and thinking in this course.

Attendance Policy:

Absences need to be justified with official documentation such as from GT Dean of Students Office or a doctor. Five unaccounted absences automatically result in an “F” grade.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

If a student has learning needs that require special accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services at <https://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/> to find support and get approval for learning accommodations.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement:

The Georgia Tech community believes that it is important to continually strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. Please access the Student-Faculty Expectations at <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/>. Ultimately, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. We remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech, agree to abide by these principles in our time here, and will encourage each other to uphold these responsibilities.

Academic Honesty/Integrity Statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy. Please familiarize yourself with the following expectations on students' commitment to academic honesty and integrity. Access the full GT Academic Honor Code at: https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academic-honor-code#Article_II:_Academic_Honor_Code. The information below is cited from Section 3 in the Code which students might find particularly helpful:

Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. The immediate objective of an Academic Honor Code is to prevent any Students from gaining an unfair advantage over other Students through academic misconduct. The following clarification of academic misconduct is taken from Section XIX Student Code of Conduct, of the Rules and Regulations section of the Georgia Institute of Technology General Catalog: Academic misconduct is any act that does or

could improperly distort Student grades or other Student academic records. Such acts include but need not be limited to the following:

- Unauthorized Access: Possessing, using, or exchanging improperly acquired written or verbal information in the preparation of a problem set, laboratory report, essay, examination, or other academic assignment.
- Unauthorized Collaboration: Unauthorized interaction with another Student or Students in the fulfillment of academic requirements.
- Plagiarism: Submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person or persons, without adequate credit notations indicating the authorship.
- False Claims of Performance: False claims for work that has been submitted by a Student.
- Grade Alteration: Alteration of any academic grade or rating so as to obtain unearned academic credit.
- Deliberate Falsification: Deliberate falsification of a written or verbal statement of fact to a Faculty member and/or Institute Official, so as to obtain unearned academic credit.
- Forgery: Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any Institute document relating to the academic status of the Student.
- Distortion: Any act that distorts or could distort grades or other academic records.

Core IMPACTS Statement:

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts in English or other languages, or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence