

EAST 377: Transpacific Korean Cultures

General Information

Term and Year: Winter 2025

Course pre-requisite(s): None

Course Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:05 am to 11:25 am

Number of Credits: 3

Instructor Information

Name and Title: Kimberly Chung, Assistant Professor

Email: kimberly.chung2@mcgill.ca

Office location: 680 Sherbrooke, Room 274

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00 am to 11:00 am; Thursdays 2:45 pm- 3:45 pm

Communication Plan

Please email the instructor with any course content related questions. Responses may take up to 48 hours during the week, exclusive of weekends.

Course Overview

This course is a conceptual, historical, and cultural exploration of the people, representations, and social forces that have shaped the creation and transformation of Korean identities from the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries. Students will read scholarly publications and nonfictional, fictional narratives that interrogate the notion of Korean-diasporic identity. Students will also view films and documentaries that reflect understandings and arguments about how Korean-diasporic identity has formed. A particular emphasis of this course is how transpacific Korean histories and identities have developed alongside vectors of race, gender, class, and geography. And one central conceptual aim of this course is to challenge the understanding of Korean identities as anchored to one area or "homeland", but in the movement of people, cultures, and materials. In this way, this course utilizes contemporary frameworks introduced by the field of transpacific studies that examines and challenges competing scopes of diasporic Korean populations in area studies and American studies.

This course will be in both lecture and discussion format. Reading and/or viewing assignments are due on the date that they appear on the course schedule.

No previous knowledge of East Asian languages is required. All media and literature will be shown or given with subtitles or in translation.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course:

- 1) students will develop an understanding of the historical contexts of the movement of people and resources from the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries.
- 2) students will understand an important body of contemporary theoretical discourse (ie. knowledge of key theorists in the field).
- 3) students will be able to converse with an existing scholarly discussion in the mode of a contemporary theoretical discourse and/or methodology, will synthesize and utilize this field of knowledge as secondary sources in their own research, and bring this framework into their own analysis of primary texts.

Required Course Materials

All readings are available on mycourses. Students are required to participate actively in class discussions. Active participation requires completing all assigned readings before coming to class and being prepared to contribute to class discussion. Reading assignments are due on the date that they appear on the course schedule.

Attendance

Attendance in this course is required. Students are permitted 2 absences without penalty. More than 2 absences will affect the student's attendance mark (each absence will result in a reduction of 2% of total grade). There will be no distinction in the course between "excused" and "unexcused" absences except in exceptional circumstances.

Evaluation:

Course Engagement:	15% (rubric provided on MyCourses)
Discussion Leading:	10%
Response Paper (three times)	30%
Research Proposal:	5%
Final Research Paper:	40%

Course Engagement

As this is a humanities course, engagement is considered an important part of learning and training. Being an engaged listener, active learner, effective communicator, and collaborative student are some of the skills that are being highlighted through the evaluation of engagement. This class is a space for one to develop and hone these foundational skills. A detailed rubric on how engagement is evaluated will be provided on mycourses under "Content." If this poses any difficulties for a student, please communicate with the instructor.

Discussion Leading

Students are required to lead discussion (in pairs) once during the semester. Leading a class discussion is a difficult but important skill to develop during your academic career. You will be able to choose the text that you would like to discuss after the first week of class. You cannot lead discussion on a text that you write a response paper for. You should plan to lead discussion for 15 minutes. It is recommended that you begin with close reading a passage then lead into specific points and questions, but you are also welcome to use your own approaches for guiding the audience. You are welcome to consult with me during office hours about discussion leading.

Response Papers

You will choose three weeks (three themes/concepts) to write a response paper for. You will explain aspects of the reading that you find most interesting or helpful. You may also consider parts of the reading that you found challenging. Consider the week's readings as a whole; evaluate how the texts relate to one another and attempt to synthesize the texts as best as you can. Response papers should be a minimum of four paragraphs.

Research Paper Proposal

A paragraph that describes your research question and a preliminary list of primary and secondary sources for your proposed topic. Students will be given points for submitting the proposal.

Final Research Paper

Students will submit an 8-10 page research paper connecting independent primary source research to one or more of the topics introduced in the course. A detailed rubric will be provided on mycourses.

Late Assignment Policy

No extensions will be given for assignments. Late assignments are subject to a penalty of 3% per day, including weekends. Exceptions are only made in exceptional circumstances and students should contact the instructor *in well advance of the due date* with appropriate documentation (ie. medical note)

Language of Assignment Submission

“In accord with McGill University’s [Charter of Students’ Rights](#), students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.” (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009)

« Conformément à la [Charte des droits de l’étudiant](#) de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté, sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue. » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 21 janvier 2009)

Reread Requests

Requests for re-read of quizzes or exams must be made within 10 working days after the graded assignment has been made available to the student. Requests should be made according to the "Reread Policy of the Department of East Asian Studies" available on mycourses under "Content."

Academic Integrity

*"McGill University values academic integrity. **Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).**"*

"L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest)."

Statement on the Use of Generative AI Tools

If you choose to use generative AI tools as a learning aid on any of the EAST493 assignments in any way, it is expected that the AI generative tool be properly referenced and accompanied with a description outlining why the AI writing tool was used/for what purpose, and how it enhanced your assignment. Failure to include a proper reference and description will be considered a breach of academic integrity. If you have any questions about the use of generative AI tools, please reach out to your instructor for clarification.

******In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of McGill University, assessment tasks in a course are subject to change, provided students are sent adequate and timely communications regarding the change******
