Korean Cinema and Popular Culture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>TBC</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class Times</td>
<td>Mon/Wed/Thu Type A(9:00–12:00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classroom</td>
<td>Bldg</td>
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<td>Equivalent Year Level</td>
<td>2-3</td>
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<td>Course Credit</td>
<td>3</td>
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- **Instructor** Dr. Jinhee Choi
- **Sessions** 1-14
- **Office**
- **Email** Jinhee.choi@kcl.ac.uk

### Instructor’s Profile

Dr. Jinhee Choi  
Reader in Film Studies  
King’s College London, UK

[https://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/filmstudies/people/acad/choi/index.aspx](https://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/filmstudies/people/acad/choi/index.aspx)

### Education

- Postdoc in East Asian Studies at Yale University, US.
- Ph.Ds. in Film Studies; and in Philosophy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, US.
- M.A. in Aesthetics at Seoul National University, ROK.
- B.A. in Aesthetics at Seoul National University, ROK.

### Expertise

Korean Cinema, East Asian Cinema and Urban Space, Girlhood, Film Industry, Film-Philosophy, Aesthetics

### Selected Publication

#### Edited Volume and Monograph


#### Journal Articles and Chapters in Edited Volumes


Course Information

Course Description
From the so-called South Korean film renaissance of the 1990s-2000s to the recent box office mega-hits such as Train to Busan (2016) and A Taxi Driver (2017), the Korean film industry has been showcasing its versatility through its adapting to the changes of the global film industry and transforming of popular genre conventions.

This module surveys the history of post-war Korean cinema since the 1950s to the present, in particular its relationship to film industry, popular culture/genre, gender, and authorship.

Course Evaluation
Attendance, Participation, quiz: 20%
In-class Presentation: 10%
Midterm essay: 30%
Final exam: 40%

Course Materials
The South Korean Film Renaissance: Local Hitmakers Global Provocateurs (Wesleyan University Press, 2010) and a Digital Course Packet

Class Policy
Attendance will be important for keeping up with class. Good attendance and active participation will be reflected in grade. In-class screenings are essential part of class and students are expected to attend all screenings.

Etc. (e.g. Guidelines)
Students are expected to do the assigned readings prior to each lecture/screening.

Course Schedule

Session 1 (Jun. 27, Wed) – Overview, the South Korean Film Renaissance
• Readings:
June 27 – July 27, 2018

Session 2 (Jun. 28, Thu) – “Well-made” Films

- In-class Screening: Memories of Murder (dir. Bong Joon-ho, 2003)

- Readings:

**Film, Fashion and Urban Space**

Session 3 (Jul. 2, Mon) – Film, Urbanity, and Fashion

- Reading:

Session 4 (Jul. 4, Wed) – Masculinity and Urban Space

- In-class Screening: The Suspect (dir. Yon Shin-yeon, 2013)

- Reading:
  - J. Choi, Chap2. “Blockbusters, Korean Style” in KFR

Session 5 (Jul. 5, Thu) – Urban Redevelopment: Insa-dong, City Hall, Cheonggye Stream

- Reading:

- In-class Presentation 1

**Popular Genre: Horror**

Session 6 (Jul. 09, Mon) – “Modern” Horror

- Recommend to See: The Housemaid (dir. Kim Ki-young, 1960)

- Readings:
Session 7 (Jul. 11, Wed) – High School Horror

- **In-class Screening:** *Memento Mori* (Kim Tae-yong/Min Gyu-dong, 1999)

- **Readings:**
  - J. Choi, Chp 5. “Once Upon a Time in High School” in KFR.

Session 8 (Jul. 12, Thu) – Exorcism/ Zombie


- **Readings:**

- **In-class Presentation 2**

**History, Trauma and Gender**

Session 9 (Jul. 16, Mon) – the 1970s Girls

- **Recommended to See:** *I Really Like You* (dir. Moon Yeo-song, 1977)

- **Readings:**

- **Essay Due**
Session 10 (Jul. 18, Wed) Post-Trauma and Memory
- In-class Screening: *Peppermint Candy* (dir. Lee Chang-dong, 1999)

- Readings:

Session 11 (Jul. 19, Thu) – Comfort Women
- Recommended to See: *Spirits’ Homecoming* (dir. Cho Jung-rae, 2016)/ *Snowy Road* (Lee Na-jeong, 2015)
- Reading:

- In-class Presentation 3

Korean Auteurs and Hallyu

Session 12 (Jul. 23, Mon) – the Korean New Wavers

- Reading:

Session 13 (Jul. 25, Wed) – Contemporary Auteurs (Kim Ki-duk, Park Chan-wook, Hong Sang-soo)
- In-class Screening: *In Another Country* (dir. Hong Sang-soo, 2012)

- Reading:
  - J.Choi, Chp 7. “Riding the New Wave,” in KFR

Session 14 (Jul. 26, Thu) – Hallyu (the Reply Series)
- Reading:
  - D. Shim, “The Growth of Korean Cultural Industries and the Korean Wave”
Session 15 (Jul. 27, Fri) – Final Exam