

## Course Title: Exploring Traditional Korea (6 Credit Hours)

### Course Components:

- **ML 2500: Think Globally, Act Locally: An Introduction to Cross-Cultural Studies (3 Credit Hours)**
  - **KOR 3410: Korean Culture Old & New (3 Credit Hours)**
- (Both courses fulfill HUMANITIES requirement.)

**Term: Summer 2025 (May 12 – June 13)**

**Instructor: Yongtaek Kim**

### Contact Information:

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### Course Overview

This immersive and enriching course invites students to explore the rich tapestry of Korean history, culture, and society. The journey begins with a two-week virtual module that establishes a solid foundation by examining Korea's history from the Paleolithic period (circa 700,000 years ago) through 1979. This preparatory phase is followed by three transformative weeks in Korea. Participants will embark on extensive tours of key historical museums and culturally significant sites, engaging deeply with Korea's past through films and documentaries. This exploration traces Korea's evolution up to 1979, offering a vivid and comprehensive understanding of its historical narrative. The final phase of the program focuses on Korea's vibrant musical heritage. Students will spend two weeks at the [Jindo National Gugak Center](#), immersing themselves in traditional Korean music. This hands-on experience provides valuable insights into Korea's cultural significance and musical traditions. The course offers a compelling backdrop for exploring Korea's renowned landmarks and deepening cultural connections.

### Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

Students must not have any prior registration for KOR courses at Georgia Tech.

### Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

#### 1. **Virtual Learning Integration:**

Students will complete the virtual pre-course, demonstrating a thorough understanding of Korea's history from the Paleolithic period to 1979. This foundational knowledge will be essential for enhancing their learning experience during their time in Korea.

#### 2. **Historical Awareness:**

Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of Korean history, recognizing the significance of key historical events and figures and their impact on the evolution of Korean society.

#### 3. **Cultural Familiarization:**

Students will develop a nuanced appreciation of Korean culture, including traditional music, art, and customs, and understand how these elements reflect and shape societal values.

**4. Music Appreciation:**

Through active participation in workshops and performances at the Jindo National Gugak Center, students will explore traditional Korean music, gaining insights into its cultural significance.

**5. Social Values:**

Students will analyze how Korea's historical narrative has shaped its contemporary identity and societal values, connecting these insights to broader themes in global history and cultural studies.

**6. Cross-Cultural Communication:**

Students will engage in meaningful interactions with local communities, practicing cultural exchange, and developing intercultural communication skills.

**7. Reflective Journaling:**

Students will maintain a reflective journal throughout the program, recording their observations, learning experiences, and personal growth.

## Course Format

The course blends virtual learning and in-person experiences, structured as follows:

**1. Virtual Module (Weeks 1-2):**

A two-week online course designed to build foundational knowledge of Korea's history through historical films, documentaries, and readings.

**2. In-Country Module (Weeks 3-5):**

- **Week 3:** Extensive tours of historical sites and museums, providing a firsthand exploration of Korea's history from the Paleolithic period to 1979.
- **Weeks 4-5:** A two-week immersive experience at the Jindo National Gugak Center, involving traditional musical instrument training, percussion quartet sessions, and cultural explorations at local historical sites.

## Assessment Components

**1. Class Participation and Performance Assessment (40%):**

Evaluation of skills acquired in traditional musical instrument and Samulnori performances, as well as attendance and active participation in class and practice sessions.

**2. Films/Documentaries and Reading Discussions on Canvas (20%):**

Engagement with assigned materials to deepen understanding before site visits, assessed through online discussions and reflections.

**3. Reflective Journal (10%):**

Students will maintain a journal documenting their observations, learning experiences, and personal reflections throughout the course.

#### 4. Final Project (30%):

Students will develop at least 10 YouTube shorts introducing the entire “Exploring Traditional Korea 2025” experience for future participants. The project will include:

- **YouTube Shorts (maximum 59 sec):** Briefly introduce what you observe and learn each day.
- You can upload your final project directly [here](#) by **9:00 pm on June 27th (F)**.
- It would be great to make your YouTube Shorts more engaging by adding some visual materials.

#### Final Project Grading Breakdown:

- **Content (70%):** Clarity and depth in presenting the program.
- **Delivery (30%):** Organization and effectiveness of the video content.

#### Grading Scale:

- A: 100-90%
- B: 89-80%
- C: 79-70%
- D: 69-60%
- F: Below 59%

Here is the tentative list of historical films/documentaries (all the movie links will be available on Canvas):

#### Day 1, May 27(Tue)

- [Yeoncheon Jeongok-ri Paleolithic Site](#) (700,000 years ago)
- [Seoul Amsa-dong Neolithic Site](#) (4000-3000 B.C.)
- ❖ Documentary 1 [Origin of Science, Stone Age](#)

#### Day 2, May 28 (Wed)

- [Ganghwa Island Bronze Age Dolmen](#) (10th century B.C.)
- ❖ Documentary 2 [Speaking of the Roots of the Nation, Ancient History: Gojoseon and Dolmens](#)
- Ganghwa Island: Goryeo-Mongol Wars (13th century)
- ❖ Documentary 3 [Why couldn't the world's strongest nation, Mongolia, capture Ganghwa Island?](#)

#### Day 3, May 29 (Thu)

- [Chungju Jungwon Goguryeo Monument](#) (5th century)
- ❖ Documentary 4 [The Fusion of Three Kingdoms' Cultures, the History of the Central Plains](#)
- [Guri Goguryeo Forge Village and Ahasan Goguryeo Ruins](#)
- ❖ Film 1: [The Great Battle](#) (645)

#### Day 4, May 30 (Fri)

- [Namhansanseong, King Injo](#) (17th Century)
  - ❖ Film 4 [The Fortress](#)
- [Suwon Hwaseong, King Jeongjo](#) (18th Century)

❖ Documentary 6 [Uigwe: The 8-Day Festival](#)

Day 5, May 31 (Sat)

- [Yeoju Museum](#) (15th Century)
- ❖ Documentary 5 [Yeoju, from King Sejong the Great to Empress Myeongseong](#)
- ❖ Film 2 [Malmoe: The Secret Mission](#)
- [Nogeunli: Korean War](#)
- ❖ Film 3 [A Little Pond](#)

Day 6, June 1 (Sun)

- [Jongmyo, Changdeokgung, Geoncheonggung](#)
  - ❖ Film 5 [The Sword with No Name](#)
  - ❖ Film 6 [The Day: 12.12](#)

Students will visit 8 historical sites between May 27 and June 1.

Course Schedule (06/02 ~ 06/13/2025)

	5/27 (Tue)- 6/2 (Mon)	3 (T)	4 (W)	5 (R)	6 (F)	7(Sat)	8(S) & 9 (M)	10 (T)	11 (W)	12(R)	13 (F)	
08:00	5/27 Yeoncheon, Jeongokri  Seoul, Amsadong	BREAKFAST (8-9 am)					Cultural tour (SUN) & Day Off (MON)	BREAKFAST (8-9 am)				6/13 Departure <i>Jindo</i>   Arrival ICN by 6 pm & Seoul
~10:00 Breakfast, etc.		9:30 <i>Opening ceremony</i>							<i>Traditional Market</i> 7:30-9:30			
10:00 ~12:00 1st Period	5/28 Ganghwa Island	Samulnori						Samulnori				
12:00~ 13:00	5/29 Chungju	LUNCH						LUNCH				
13:00 ~15:00 2nd Period	Guri  5/30 Sungnam  Suwon	Samulnori Practice	Haegeum	Samulnori Practice	Samulnori Practice	Samulnori Practice		Samulnori Practice	Samulnori Practice	Samulnori Practice	Rehearsal  14:00 Performance & Closing Ceremony	
15:00 ~17:00 3rd Period	5/31 Yeoju  Nogeunli	Haegeum	Samulnori Practice	Haegeum	Haegeum	Watching a performance						
17:00 ~18:00	6/1 Jongmyo  Changdeokgung Geoncheonggung  6/2 (M)	Haegeum Practice	Haegeum Practice	Special lecture				Haegeum Practice		PRACTICE FOR PERFORMANCE		
18:00~ 19:00	Incheon Airport  Jindo	Dinner- Dinning Hall						Dinner-Dinning Hall				
20:00 ~22:00		Haegeum Practice	Haegeum Practice	No Practice	Haegeum Practice	Haegeum Practice		Haegeum Practice	Haegeum Practice			





Yancheon

Kanghwa

Kuri

Hanam

Songnam

Suwon

Keju

Chungju

Chongju

Taejon

Taegu

Chin I

Cheju