

Description

Korean dramas (K-dramas) can be found on a variety of streaming services and have grown exponentially in popularity in the past decade. They encompass all types of genres - action, suspense, mystery, crime, fantasy, science fiction, historical dramas, medical dramas, and yes, love stories. This course takes a deep dive into the art and artistry of K-dramas, examining shows that were popular or that had a big impact in Korea or internationally in the past 20 years. We'll explore the works of some of the leading and most distinctive writers, directors, and acclaimed performers, and examine notable examples of cinematography and the musical score. This course will have a highly interactive, conversational format.

Learning Objectives

1. To gain knowledge of the development of K-dramas over the past 20 years and contributions of leading writers, directors, and performers.
2. To gain an appreciation for the artistry of K-dramas.
3. To share perspectives on and passions for K-dramas.

Syllabus **Specific sessions will be determined by the interests of the class. Examples include:**

- **Influential K-Dramas**

What makes a K-drama popular, either within Korea or internationally? What makes it resonate at a particular time? Is it the story? Is it the acting? Is there something distinctive about the production itself? For older shows, does it hold up over time? We'll examine K-dramas and other source material to explore award winning shows and shows that are, or were, considered classics. Examples include, but are not limited to:

2001-2010	<i>Lovers in Paris</i> <i>My Lovely Sam Soon</i> <i>Iris</i> <i>Coffee Prince</i> <i>Boys Over Flowers</i> <i>Secret Garden</i>
2011-2015	<i>Moon Embracing the Sun</i> <i>My Love from the Star</i> <i>Misaeng: Incomplete Life</i> <i>Descendants of the Sun</i>
2016-present	<i>Guardian: The Lonely and Great God</i> <i>Sky Castle</i> <i>Crash Landing on You</i>

- **Influential Writers**

Some K-drama writers have worked within a particular genre; others' careers have encompassed a variety of styles and types of shows. We'll explore innovative and distinctive writers – how their work has evolved, inspirations they have drawn from, and the impact of their work. Examples include, but are not limited to:

홍정은 and 홍미랑 The Hong Sisters - Hong Jung-eun, Hong Mi-ran (*My Girlfriend Is a Nine-Tailed Fox, Master's Sun, A Korean Odyssey, Hotel del Luna; Alchemy of Souls*)

박지은 Park Ji-eun (*My Love From The Star, The Producers, Legend of the Blue Sea, Crash Landing on You*)

김은숙 Kim Eun-sook (*Lovers in Paris, Secret Garden, Heirs, Descendants of the Sun, Guardian: The Lonely and Great God, Mr. Sunshine*)

유현미 Yoo Hyun-mi (earlier revenge dramas; *Sky Castle, Snowdrop*)

- **Acclaimed Performers**

In these sessions we will explore the careers of leading or emerging Korean actors and actresses, examining significant roles, distinctive talents, and what contributes to their appeal to Korean and international audiences. Sessions can include, but are not limited to:

전지현 Jun Ji-hyun

이민호 Lee Min-ho

현빈 Hyun Bin

공효진 Gong Hyo-jin

김혜자 Kim Hye-ja

송중기 Song Joong-ki

오정세 Oh Jung-Se

지창욱 Ji Chang-wook

하지원 Ha Ji-Won

공유 Gong Yoo

손예진 Son Ye-jin

- **Memorable Music**

K-dramas are often acclaimed for their music – their Original Television Soundtrack – songs that can evoke a scene, a character, a mood, an emotion. In this session we'll examine favorite examples and explore how they reflect and enhance the story.