MODULE DESCRIPTION

Module title	Code
Gender and Sexuality in South Korea	

Teacher(s)	Unit
Teaching Professor: Dr. Sunhye Kim **Co-ordinating:** Dr Hyunhee Lee	Institute of Asian and Transcultural Studies

Cycle of studies	Level of module	Type of module
1st cycle	1/1	Optional

Mode of implementation	Period of instruction	Language(s) of instruction
Lectures	1 semester	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: none	**Additional requirements (if any):** none

Module volume in credits	Total student workload	Contact hours	Independent study hours
5	133	32	101

Aim of module: competences developed by the study programme		
This course offers an in-depth exploration of gender and sexuality in contemporary Korean society through historical, cultural, and political lenses. We will critically examine the construction of gender norms and sexual identities, the evolution of feminist and LGBTQ+ movements, and the intersection of gender with race, class, and labor. Topics include the influence of militarism on gender roles, reproductive politics, body image and beauty standards, digital feminism, and the experiences of queer communities. By situating Korea within a global context, students will engage with key debates around gendered labor, family structures, and the role of state policies in shaping individual autonomy and reproductive rights. Through interdisciplinary readings, discussions, and case studies, this course encourages students to think critically about how gender and sexuality are negotiated and contested in South Korean society today.		
Learning outcomes of the module	**Study methods**	**Assessment methods**
-Students will demonstrate a deep understanding of the historical, cultural, and political construction of gender norms and sexual identities in contemporary South Korea. Students will critically analyze the evolution of feminist and LGBTQ+ movements, situating them within national and global contexts. -Students will develop their ability to identify and evaluate the impact of intersectional factors such as race, class, labor, and state policies on individual experiences. -Students will enhance their critical thinking, research, and academic writing skills through detailed engagement with course readings and scholarly sources. -Students will learn to work independently, demonstrating self-directed learning and time management skills while reflecting on the complexities and limitations of what they have learned.	Lecturing and demonstration (multimedia)	Written assignment
-Students will engage with critical topics, including militarism, reproductive politics,	Research methods (search for information, critical thinking,	Creative group project

digital feminism, and queer experiences, applying interdisciplinary perspectives. -Students will develop collaboration skills and teamwork, working with peers to produce a creative and well-researched project. -Students will demonstrate cultural sensitivity and inclusivity, reflecting diverse perspectives and marginalized voices in their projects. -Students will critically explore the intersectionality of gender, sexuality, class, and labor through creative outputs, fostering deeper engagement with course topics. -Students will learn to connect South Korea's gender and sexuality debates to global contexts and present these insights in innovative and accessible formats. -Students will enhance communication and presentation skills by delivering their project outcomes to the class.	preparation and multimedia presentation, teamwork).	

Topics	**Contact hours**							**Independent study time and assignments**	
	Lectures	Consultations	*Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Practice	Total contact hours	Independent work	**Reading Assignments**
1. Introduction	2						2	4	Haejoang, C., & Young-rae, U. (1997). Feminist Intervention in the Rise of "Asian" Discourse. Asian Journal of Women's Studies, 3(3), 127-156.
2. Gender, sexuality and intersectionality	2						2	4	Chen, C. J. (2007). The difference that differences make: Asian feminism and the politics of difference. Asian Journal of Women's Studies, 13(3), 7-36.
3. Historical perspectives on gender in South Korea	2						2	4	Nelson, L. C., & Haejoang, C. (2016). Women, gender, and social change in South Korea since 1945. In Routledge Handbook of Modern Korean History (pp. 326-342). Routledge.
4. The women's movement in South Korea	2						2	4	Kim, S. K., & Kim, K. (2011, September). Gender mainstreaming and the

									institutionalization of the women's movement in South Korea. In *Women's Studies International Forum* (Vol. 34, No. 5, pp. 390-400). Pergamon.
5. Gender, nation, and militarism	2						2	4	Kwon, I. (2000). A feminist exploration of military conscription: The gendering of the connections between nationalism, militarism and citizenship in South Korea. *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, *3*(1), 26-54.
6. Labor and gender	2						2	4	Mee, K. H. (2001). Work, nation and hypermasculinity: the'woman'question in the economic miracle and crisis in South Korea. *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, *2*(1), 53-68.
7. Demographic change	2						2	4	Cho, E. (2016). Making the 'modern'family: The discourse of sexuality in the Family Planning Program in South Korea. *Sexualities*, *1 9*(7), 802-818.
8. Queer identities and LGBTQ+ movements	2						2	4	The South Korean Gender Syste m: LGBTI in the Contexts of Family, Legal Identity, and the Military Tari Young-Jung Na, Ju Hui Judy Han, Se-Woong Koo *The Journal of Korean Studies (1979-)*, Vol. 19, No. 2, THEMATIC ISSUE: Gender and Politics in Contemporary Korea (fall 2014), pp. 357-377

9. Body politics and beauty standards	2						2	4	Leem, S. Y. (2016). The dubious enhancement: Making South Korea a plastic surgery nation. *East Asian Science, Technology and Society: An International Journal*, *10*(1), 51-71.
10. Reproductive politics	2						2	4	Kim, S., Young, N., & Lee, Y. (2019). The role of reproductive justice movements in challenging South Korea's abortion ban. Health and Human Rights, 21(2), 97.
11. Family and gender	2						2	4	Korean Family Law Revisited: Focusing on the Revisions Related to Gender Equality Hyuna MOON(Seoul National University) ; Minja Kim CHOE(East-West Center, Honolulu)2023, Vol.63, No.4, pp.111-136
12. Masculinities in South Korea	2						2	4	Lee, S. R. (2022). From boyfriend to boy's love: South Korean male ASMRtists' performances of digital care. Television & New Media, 23(4), 389-404.
13. Digital feminism and online gender politics	2						2	4	Jinsook, K. I. M. (2021). The resurgence and popularization of feminism in South Korea: Key issues and challenges for contemporary feminist activism. *Korea Journal*, *61*(4), 75-101.
14. Racialization and migration	2						2	4	

									South Korean Rural Husbands, Compensatory Masculinity, and International Marriage Minjeong Kim *The Journal of Korean Studies (1979-)*, Vol. 19, No. 2, THEMATIC ISSUE: Gender and Politics in Contemporary Korea (fall 2014), pp. 291-325
15. Creative project group presentations	2						2	4	
16. Creative project group presentations	2						2	4	
Preparation for the essay and the exam								37	
Total	**32**						**32**	**101**	

*Times of the seminars can change to accommodate the course and students' needs. The changes will be announced in advance.

Assessment strategy	**Weight, %**	**Assessment time**	**Assessment criteria**
- Written Assignment (2 pages)	50	During semester	Students will have to submit one (a OR b) chosen assignment: a. Gender and labor in South Korea b. Reproductive politics in South Korea *The assessment is based on the following criteria:* - consistency of the argument; - demonstration of literature knowledge/quality of data; - critical thinking; - depth of analysis.
- Creative group project	50	During semester	Students will collaborate in groups (max. 4 students) to create a project that addresses a particular academic topic related to gender and sexuality in Korean society. Each group will present their findings, focusing on delivering the topic in a creative and engaging way. Students are encouraged to use multimedia elements (such as photography or video) to explore key themes innovatively. Along with the presentation, each student will submit a 1,000-word individual report on their chosen topic. The report will critically reflect on the themes explored in the project and incorporate relevant academic literature. *The assessment is based on the following criteria:* - choice of the research question; - consistency of the argument/structure of the assignment; - quality of literature/sources/data; - depth of analysis; - academic literacy.

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or a web link
Compulsory reading list				
Haejoang, C., & Young-rae, U.	1997	Feminist Intervention in the Rise of "Asian" Discourse.	3(3)	Asian Journal of Women's Studies
Chen, C. J.	2007	The difference that differences make: Asian feminism and the politics of difference	13(3)	Asian Journal of Women's Studies
Nelson, L. C., & Haejoang, C.	2016	Women, gender, and social change in South Korea since 1945. In Routledge Handbook of Modern Korean History		Routledge.
Kim, S. K., & Kim, K.	2011	Gender mainstreaming and the institutionalization of the women's movement in South Korea.	34(5)	*Women's Studies International Forum*
Kwon, I.	2000	A feminist exploration of military conscription: The gendering of the connections between nationalism, militarism and citizenship in South Korea.	3(1)	*International Feminist Journal of Politics*
Mee, K. H.	2018	Work, nation and hypermasculinity: the'woman'question in the economic miracle and crisis in South Korea.	*2*(1),	*Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*
Cho, E.	2005	Making the 'modern'family: The discourse of sexuality in the Family Planning Program in South Korea.	*19*(7),	*Sexualities*
Tari Young-Jung Na, Ju Hui Judy Han, Se-Woong Koo	2014	The South Korean Gender System: LGBTI in the Contexts of Family, Legal Identity, and the Military	19(2)	*The Journal of Korean Studies*
Leem, S. Y.	2016	The dubious enhancement: Making South Korea a plastic surgery nation.	10(1)	*East Asian Science, Technology and Society: An International Journal*,
Kim, S., Young, N., & Lee, Y.	2019	The role of reproductive justice movements in challenging South Korea's abortion ban. Health and Human Rights	21(2)	Health and Human Rights,
Hyuna MOON. Minja Kim CHOE, 2023	2023	Korean Family Law Revisited: Focusing on the Revisions Related to Gender Equality	63(4)	Korea Journal
Gaphee, K.	2006	Introduction: a moment and movement of sex work in South Korea and Asia.	*7*(2)	*Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*
Lee, S. R.	2022	From boyfriend to boy's love: South Korean male ASMRtists' performances of digital care.	23(4)	Television & New Media
Jinsook, K. I. M.	2021	The resurgence and popularization of feminism in South Korea: Key issues and challenges for contemporary feminist activism.	*61*(4)	*Korea Journal*

Minjeong Kim	2017	South Korean Rural Husbands, Compensatory Masculinity, and International Marriage	19(2)	*The Journal of Korean Studies*
Additional reading list				
Kim, E. H.	1998	*Dangerous Women: Gender and Korean Nationalism.*		Routledge.
Kim, S. K., & Kim, K.	2014	*The Korean women's movement and the state: bargaining for change.*		Routledge.
Jung, K.	2013	*Practicing feminism in South Korea: The women's movement against sexual violence.*		Routledge.
Freeman, C.	2017	*Making and faking kinship: Marriage and labor migration between China and South Korea.*		Cornell University Press.
Kendall, L	2001	*Under construction: The gendering of modernity, class, and consumption in the Republic of Korea.*		University of Hawaii Press.
Abelmann, N.	2003	*The melodrama of mobility: Women, talk, and class in contemporary South Korea.*		University of Hawaii Press.