



2026 Korea University International Summer Campus (KU ISC)

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June 27, 2026 – August 6, 2026

ISC 364 – Language, Culture and Society in Korea

I . Instructor

Professor	:	Cho, Sungdai
E-mail	:	sundy@binghamton.edu
Home Institution	:	SUNY at Binghamton
Class Time	:	10:50am -12:30pm (KST)
Class Format	:	In-person
Office Hours	:	TBA
Academic Field	:	Humanities, Korean Studies, Social Sciences

II. Textbook

Required Textbook	:	Ho-Min Sohn. 2005. Korean Language in Culture and Society. University of Hawaii Press.
Recommended Additional Readings	:	Sungdai Cho and John Whitman. 2020. Korean: A Linguistic Introduction. Cambridge University Press.

III. Course Description and Objectives (1 course = 3 credits)

This course provides the opportunity to become acquainted with Korean culture and society, reflected in its language, since the linguistic system of Korean and its daily uses are inseparably interwoven with the ever-evolving culture and society of the Korean people. It aims at a general understanding of Korean language and people, with emphasis on the culture and society. Attempts will be made to highlight the uniqueness of Korean cultural tradition in the broad context of East Asian civilization (Japanese and Chinese), as well as Western influence, especially of English. Its focal point is to cover invention and use of the Korean alphabet, standard language (South Korean) and cultured language (North Korean), Korean in contact with Chinese, Korean in contact with Japanese, sound symbolism, proverbs, terms of calendar, kinship terms, slang, honorifics, phatic expression, gender differences, Korean advertisements, linguistic structure and dialectal variation. Reading materials and lectures are in English. Gen Ed. H & D

Prerequisites: No

Gen. Ed. H and D

BU Course Number: (AAAS 311/Linguistics 335/Anthropology 380K)

(Required for Korean Major, Asian Major and Linguistics Major)

IV. Grading

Midterm Exam	:	40%
2 Presentations	:	40%
Attendance	:	10%
Participation	:	10%

V. Class Outline

Date	Topic	Chapter	Remarks
June 27 (Sat)	Orientation Day (No Class)		
June 29 (Mon)	Background Lecture		
June 30 (Tue)	Chapter 1. Introduction	1	
July 1 (Wed)	Chapter 2. Invention and use of the Korean alphabet	2	
July 2 (Thu)	Chapter 3. Standard language vs Cultured Language	3	
July 6 (Mon)	Chapter 4. Korean in contact with Chinese	4	
July 7 (Tue)	Chapter 5. Korean in contact with Japanese	5	
July 8 (Wed)	Chapter 6. Sound symbolism in Korean	6	
July 9 (Thu)	Chapter 7. Korean proverbs	7	
July 13 (Mon)	Chapter 8. Korean terms of calendar	8	
July 14 (Tue)	Chapter 9. Korean kinship terms	9	
July 15 (Wed)	Chapter 10. Slang in Korean	10	
July 16 (Thu)	Chapter 11, 12. Korean honorifics	11, 12	
July 20 (Mon)	Chapter 13. Phatic expressions in Korean	13	
July 21 (Tue)	Chapter 16, 17. Gender differences	16, 17	
July 22 (Wed)	Chapter 18, 19. Advertisement and TV Ad.	18, 19	
July 23 (Thu)	Chapter 20. Linguistic structures of Korean	20	
July 27 (Mon)	Chapter 22. Dialect variation in Korean	22	
July 28 (Tue)	MID-TERM Review (Due on 7/31)		
July 29 (Wed)	MID-TERM (Take-Home with Open Book)		
July 30 (Thu)	MID-TERM (Take-Home with Open Book)		
Aug 3 (Mon)	Presentation		
Aug 4 (Tue)	Presentation		
Aug 5 (Wed)	Presentation		
Aug 6 (Thu)	Last day of 6-week program & Graduation Day		