

Korean

Department of Linguistics

Korean
College of Arts and Sciences
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Overview

**Not a baccalaureate degree program*

North and South Korea have a combined population of 68 million. Except for a small Chinese minority in South Korea, most of the people are ethnic Koreans, making Korea one of the most homogeneous countries in the world. The Korean language plays an important role in the identity of the Korean people. Korean is spoken in both North and South Korea and is written in Hangul, a phonetic alphabet created in 1446. South Korea has experienced rapid economic growth and development and is considered an Asian economic powerhouse.

The Korean curriculum provides a solid foundation for an understanding and appreciation of the rich culture of Korea. The language and culture courses offered are useful to students who aspire to an East Asia-related academic or professional career in education, government, communications, or business, as well as in other fields in the United States or abroad.

The curriculum of the Korean program includes:

- Courses designed to develop or improve competence in written and spoken Korean through the advanced level
- Courses on Korean culture (taught in English)
- Courses that examine Korean language teaching
- Korean linguistics

About our Degrees

The curriculum of the Korean program includes: courses designed to develop or improve competence in written and spoken Korean through the advanced level, courses on Korean culture (taught in English), and Korean linguistics.

Acceptance Criteria

A minimum GPA of 2.0 in prerequisite and required courses is needed.
Application should be made when the student has completed the prerequisite courses or during the semester in which they are completed.

Degree Requirements

Please see [Degrees and Policies](#).

About our Courses

For course descriptions, please see [Courses](#).

About our Faculty

Dr. EunHee Lee's research centers on formal semantic theories with an emphasis on tense and aspect in Korean.

Extracurricular Activities

See the [UB Student Association](#).

Practical Experience and Special Academic Opportunities

Korean

Programs for study abroad are available for those who pursue studies in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, and it is encouraged particularly for majors and minors in these languages. For more information, see [Study Abroad Programs](#).

Serious students of Korean are strongly encouraged to take Korea-related courses across the university curriculum and to study in Korea for a summer, a semester, or full academic year. For study abroad options, see the Study Abroad section or contact the Study Abroad Programs office at (716) 645-3912.

Of interest to students enrolled in Korean language courses is the Asian Studies Program, which offers a major in Asian Studies and a minor in Asian Studies. For information, contact Dr. Kristin Stapleton, Director, 714 Clemens Hall at (716) 645-3474, or kstaple@buffalo.edu.

Career Information and Further Study

The language and culture courses offered are useful to students who aspire to an East Asia-related academic or professional career in education, government, communications, business, and other fields in the United States and abroad.

Degrees Offered

Undergraduate: Minor

Special Major

For students who want to further their studies in East Asian languages, a special major in Chinese, Japanese, or Korean can be arranged in consultation with the Language Program director and Special Major Services (275 Park Hall). For more information, see [Special Major Services](#).

Links to Further Information About this Program

- [Undergraduate Catalog](#)
- [Undergraduate Admissions](#)
- [Graduate Admissions](#)
- [Department of Linguistics](#)
- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)

Korean - Minor

Acceptance Criteria

Minimum GPA of 2.0 in prerequisite courses.

Advising Notes

Application should be made after completion of the prerequisite courses or during the semester in which they are completed.

Minimum GPA of 2.0 in required courses is necessary to earn the minor.

Students with advanced Korean proficiency should consult with the program advisor to arrange appropriate program.

Prerequisite Courses

[KOR 101-KOR 102](#) Elementary Korean I-II (or equivalent proficiency)

Required Courses

[KOR 201](#) Intermediate Korean I

[KOR 202](#) Intermediate Korean II

[KOR 301](#) Third-year Korean I

[KOR 302](#) Third-year Korean II

Two Korea-related or Korean language courses, which may include one course from another department.

Korean

KOR 101: First-Year Korean

Credits: 5
Type: LEC

First-year (elementary) Korean aims to help students acquire elementary proficiency in Korean. Not open to students who have previous exposure to the Korean language. Places special focus on mastering pronunciation, writing system, basic vocabulary, and basic grammar used in carrying out simple real-life tasks. Students can expect a chance to understand cultural difference and identity as well.

KOR 102: First-Year Korean

Credits: 5
Pre-requisites: [KOR 101](#)
Type: LEC

First-year (elementary) Korean aims to help students acquire elementary proficiency in Korean. Not open to students who have previous exposure to the Korean language. Places special focus on mastering pronunciation, writing system, basic vocabulary, and basic grammar used in carrying out simple real-life tasks. Students can expect a chance to understand cultural difference and identity as well.

KOR 201: Second-Year Korean

Credits: 4
Pre-requisites: [KOR 102](#)
Type: LEC

Equips students with intermediate communicative skills in Korean. Expects students to initiate and be engaged in spontaneous dialogues with little difficulty. Students should be able to understand simple Korean text and compose short essays in Korean. Emphasizes expansion of knowledge of grammar and vocabulary.

KOR 202: Second-Year Korean

Credits: 4
Pre-requisites: [KOR 201](#)
Type: LEC

Equips students with intermediate communicative skills in Korean. Expects students to initiate and be engaged in spontaneous dialogues with little difficulty. Students should be able to understand simple Korean text and compose short essays in Korean. Emphasizes expansion of knowledge of grammar and vocabulary.

KOR 211: Korean Language and Culture

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Introduces Korean culture and society, including readings and discussions of Korean history, politics, economy, art, literature, and language. Taught in English.

KOR 301: Third-Year Korean

Credits: 4
Pre-requisites: [KOR 201](#)
Type: LEC

Helps students to achieve advanced proficiency in Korean and become familiar with Korean culture. Expects students to engage in conversations on various concrete and abstract topics, and to improve their skills for understanding authentic Korean texts and composing essays in Korean. Students also expand their vocabulary, including basic Chinese characters.

KOR 302: Third-Year Korean

Credits: 4
Pre-requisites: [KOR 301](#)
Type: LEC

Helps students to achieve advanced proficiency in Korean and become familiar with Korean culture. Expects students to engage in conversations on various concrete and abstract topics, and to improve their skills for understanding authentic Korean texts and composing essays in Korean. Students also expand their vocabulary, including basic Chinese characters.

KOR 331: Korean Literature I

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Begins with a brief historical introduction to Korean literature. Students read and discuss various genres of Korean literature, including essays, novels, poetry, and drama.

KOR 332: Korean Literature II

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Second half of the [KOR 331-KOR 332](#) sequence. Continues with study of essays, novels, poetry, and drama, focusing on modern to contemporary literature.

KOR 351: Korean Literature in Translation I

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Classical Korean literature from early times to the 19th century, taught in two parts--prose and poetry. Prose includes folktales, essays, short stories (18th C) and pansori novels (18-19th C). Poetry includes hyangga (the oldest poems before 10th C), shijo (10th-19th C), and kasa (18th-19th C). Crosslisted with [ENG 463](#).

KOR 352: Korean Literature in Translation II

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

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Modern Korean literature since the 20th century, taught in two parts--prose and poetry. Prose is confined to short stories (Danpyunsosul), and they can be categorized into three distinctive periods of time: Japanese occupation (1905-1945), liberation and Korean wartime (1940's-50's), and industrialization (1960's and after). Poetry (Hyundaishi) is from modern Korean poets, and they can be more easily classified according to the themes.

KOR 401: Advanced Korean Readings and Conversation

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [KOR 301](#)
Type: LEC

Advanced Korean texts and culture. Students read newspaper articles, short stories, and essays in Korean and discuss various topics in Korean history and contemporary Korean culture determined by their interests in Korean.

KOR 402: Advanced Korean Readings and Conversation (Second Semester)

Credits: 3
Pre-requisites: [KOR 401](#)
Type: LEC

Advanced readings and conversation in Korean is a course designed for students who would like to improve their skills for understanding advanced Korean texts and conversation, and to help students become more familiar with Korean culture. Students will read newspaper articles, short stories, and essays in Korean and discuss various topics in Korean history and contemporary Korean culture determined by their interests in Korean.

KOR 411: Introduction to Korean Linguistics

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Lays the groundwork for an understanding of how the Korean language operates. No prior knowledge of Korean is necessary, but does require a familiarity with basic linguistic theory. Students are introduced to major phonological, morphological, syntactic, semantic, and pragmatic characteristics of Korean in light of linguistic/cognitive universals and cross-linguistic variations.

KOR 451: Teaching Korean As a Foreign Language

Credits: 3
Type: LEC

Helps students teach Korean as a foreign language to English speakers. We discuss a wide range of issues related to the teaching of Korean including various language teaching methods and their application to Korean teaching, textbooks and supplementary teaching materials, designing curricula and syllabi, testing and evaluation, and incorporating Korean culture. Students develop lesson plans, materials, and class activities. Graduate students read and discuss selected current research articles, give teaching demonstrations, and write a term paper.

KOR 481: Special Topics

Credits: 3

Type: SEM

Topics vary each semester.

KOR 482: Special Topics

Credits: 3
Type: SEM

Topics vary each semester.

KOR 496: Internship/Practicum

Credits: 1-8
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

Hands-on experience in language and cultural studies at institutions and organizations in Western New York and/or nationwide.

KOR 499: Independent Study

Credits: 1-8
Type: TUT

The content of this course is variable and therefore it is repeatable for credit. The [University Grade Repeat Policy](#) does not apply.

For advanced students of Korean.