

**** This syllabus was last updated July 28, 2020, and is subject to change before the semester begins ****

Korean 230: Introduction to Korean Linguistics

Class time: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00—10:15

Location: 교양관 104 (all class meetings and exams will be conducted ONLINE)

Instructor: Dr. Jeff Holliday

E-mail: holliday@korea.ac.kr

Office: 교양관 522

Office hours: By appointment

About this course

The purpose of this course is to provide a broad introduction to the linguistic analysis of Korean. We will cover a range of topics, focusing on phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics, and also cover a bit of orthography, history, and pragmatics.

This course will be conducted in English. The idea of teaching this course in English may seem interesting, special, or even funny to some people, but it is important to separate the object of study (the Korean language) from the language through which knowledge about it is conveyed (which could be Korean, English, or any other language). It should be uncontroversial to say that any subject can be studied in any language: It is strange to think that certain subjects could *only* be properly studied *in certain languages*, and I don't believe there is any reason to think otherwise just because the object of study is a language itself. To claim otherwise is to claim that some languages are inherently incapable of conveying certain ideas.

It is true, however, that the scholarly field of “Korean linguistics” – i.e. the (scientific) study of the Korean language – is approached differently in Korea and elsewhere (in fact even that very definition of the field might differ). Although this course is taught in English, it is not merely a translation of the Korean version of the course: Please be aware that we will mainly approach the subject from a non-Korean perspective. We will see exactly what that means as we proceed throughout the semester. Our discussions will also include some discussion of other languages, in attempt to show how Korean is (and is not) different from them.

If you are a native speaker of Korean: Please be aware that there will probably be a fair number of non-native speakers in the classroom, and so some discussion will be geared toward helping them understand things about Korean that you may find obvious. If you do not wish to participate in such discussion, then this course might not be for you.

If you are NOT a native speaker of Korean: It is nearly impossible to tackle the course content without already knowing the basics of the language. While I have no way of checking your previous coursework, please be aware that the homework assignments and exams will *assume* knowledge of Korean, and if you choose to enroll in this course without sufficient preparation your grade will likely suffer. My recommended preparation is the equivalent of 2 years of college-level Korean (≈ 300 contact/classroom hours). If you have only had 1 year of college-level Korean (≈ 150 hours) you may be fine, but please be prepared to put in some extra effort. If you have had less than 1 year of college-level Korean I strongly discourage you from enrolling in this course, with the only exception being students have already had some coursework in general linguistics (e.g. an introduction to

linguistics, **plus** one or two additional courses in core topics such as phonetics, phonology, syntax, or semantics).

Textbook

The Korean Language by Ho-Min Sohn. Korea University Press, 2013.

The textbook may be purchased at the Uni Store on campus or from most online booksellers. Any other required readings will be made freely available on the Blackboard course page.

Evaluation

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Homework	30%
Class participation	10%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	40%

Please note that, unless I have made an error, I will not change your grade after the semester is over. If your work during the semester earns you a D or an F (or a B+), then you will get a D or an F (or a B+). If this is your last semester and you already have a job and if you get an F then you won't graduate and you'll lose your job, then you need to take this class seriously. If you need special accommodations, then you need to let me know so I can arrange them. I care a lot about your performance in this course and I am very willing to provide extra help throughout the semester should you need it, but once the semester is over your grade is what you earned and not something I can change for you.

Course policies

Attendance and participation

Because this course will be conducted entirely online, there is no physical meeting to attend, but you are expected to watch all of the lecture videos and participate actively in class discussion. 10% of your course grade is based on the quality of your participation. If you do not participate at all you will not receive any of the allotted points.

Late work

Late work will be accepted with a 25% penalty per day late. Each "day" begins at 9:00 AM. If you know in advance that you will not be in class to turn in an assignment, let me know well in advance so we can discuss your options.

Academic misconduct

Any evidence of plagiarism or cheating will result in a score of zero for the assignment or exam in question. Examples of plagiarism and cheating include, but are not limited to:

- Copying another student's homework, or allowing another student to copy your own homework
- Using any unauthorized resources to complete your homework (please ask if you have questions)
- Using an automatic/electronic translator to compose English
- Using unauthorized resources during an exam
- Submitting for credit work that was submitted for credit in another course, even with alterations

Proposed schedule

TKL: *The Korean Language* by Ho-Min Sohn

		Topic/Activities	Reading	Homework due
Week 1	9/1	Organizational meeting		
	9/3	What is (Korean) linguistics?	TKL pp. 1-16 (16)	
Week2	9/8	More introduction & romanization		
	9/10	Vowels	TKL pp. 151-162 (12)	
Week 3	9/15	Consonants (stops and nasals)		
	9/17	Consonants (other consonants)		
Week4	9/22	Allophony	TKL pp. 163-177 (15)	HW #1
	9/24	Other phonological processes		
Week 5	9/29	Prosody	TKL pp. 196-202 (7)	
	10/1	No class – Chuseok		
Week 6	10/6	Orthography and Korean	TKL pp. 121-150 (30)	
	10/8	History of Hangul		HW #2
Week 7	10/13	Words and morphemes	TKL pp. 203-215 (13)	
	10/15	Review for midterm exam		
Week 8	10/20	MIDTERM EXAM (ONLINE)		
	10/22	No class – Midterms week		
Week 9	10/27	Word classes		
	10/29	Derivational morphology	TKL pp. 215-231 (17)	HW #3
Week 10	11/3	Inflectional morphology	TKL pp. 231-241 (11)	
	11/5	The lexicon	TKL pp. 87-102 (16)	
Week 11	11/10	Phrase structure	TKL pp. 265-287 (23)	
	11/12	Sentence types		
Week 12	11/17	Case	TKL pp. 326-345 (20)	HW #4
	11/19	Semantics	TKL pp. 354-366 (13)	
Week 13	11/24	Tense, mood, and aspect		
	11/26	Pragmatics	TKL pp. 407-418 (12)	
Week 14	12/1	Corpora and language technology		
	12/3	Origin and history of Korean	TKL pp. 17-25, 29-56 (37)	HW #5
Week 15	12/8	Dialects	TKL pp. 57-66 (10)	
	12/10	Review for final exam		

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday December 15, 9:00 AM (ONLINE)

First assignment: Send Jeff an email (holliday@korea.ac.kr) from an email address that you can commit to checking every weekday. If this is different from your KU address, that's fine. Whatever address you send this email to me from is what I will use as your email address for the semester.

In your email, please give me the following information:

1. Your official name – i.e. the name that appears on my roster, so I know who you are
2. What you want me to call you, if not your official name
3. Your native language(s)
4. Any other languages you speak fluently (other than English)
- 5a. [Exchange students ONLY] What is your home university and major?
- 5b. [Exchange students ONLY] How long and in what capacity have you studied Korean?
6. Any linguistics classes you have taken (either in Korean or not)
7. A boring fact about yourself

Due Thursday, September 10 by 9:00 AM