

Spring 2026, KECNY Korean Language Course: Conversation Syllabus

1. Class: Advanced Korean Conversation

Duration: 15 Weeks

Objective: Enhance conversational fluency, listening comprehension, and cultural understanding using authentic Korean resources and five thematic discussions: Media, Living Culture, History, Environment, and Geography of Korea.

2. Soojin Kim was born, raised, and educated in Seoul, Korea. She holds a Ph.D. in Elizabethan literature from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Korea and lectured on English Literature and language at Hankuk University. She also earned a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Portland, Oregon. Soojin researched the development of second-language fluency through a classroom strategy of Reader's Theater at the University of Portland. Her extensive teaching experience includes both English language instruction at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Korea and Korean language instruction for immersion military programs, and New York University in the US.

3. Time & Place: 19:30-21:00 every Monday @ Korean Education Center

4. Textbook: The professor will provide the needed materials

5. Syllabus (Tentative):

WEEK	DATE	CONTENT	NOTE (해당 사항 없을 경우 빈칸)
Week 1	3/N	Orientation & Goal Setting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course overview and syllabus discussion• Icebreaker activity (self-introductions with cultural anecdotes)• Watch a short Korean video introducing Korean dialects and prepare to discuss regional differences.	

Week 2		The Rise of Hallyu (Korean Wave) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: Korea's global cultural influence • Materials: Articles, interviews with Hallyu stars • New Vocabulary and Grammar summary • Activities: Presentations on Hallyu's role in soft power, Group discussion on its future potential 	Media Focus
Week 3		Korean News & Current Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: Understanding Korean news language and structure • Materials: Excerpts from news broadcasts (e.g., KBS, SBS) • New Vocabulary and Grammar summary • Activities: Discuss headline writing in Korean / Practice summarizing and debating current news topics 	
Week 4		Korean Dramas & K-pop Lyrics and Music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: Exploring societal norms and relationships • Materials: Selected scenes from popular dramas (e.g., <i>My Mister</i>, <i>Reply 1988</i>), Lyrics from popular songs (e.g., BTS, IU) • New Vocabulary and Grammar summary • Activities: Role-playing based on drama dialogues / Cultural analysis: comparing Korean family dynamics to students' own/ Analyze idiomatic expressions in song lyrics/Discussion on K-pop's influence globally 	

Week 5		Korean Cuisine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: Food culture and etiquette • Materials: Korean cooking shows, recipes, and food blogs • New Vocabulary and Grammar summary • Activities: Discuss the cultural significance of <i>banchan</i> (side dishes) / Group activity: describing a traditional dish 	Living Culture Focus
Week 6		Social Etiquette and Traditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: Honorifics and non-verbal communications • Materials: Excerpts from situational scenes and Gen Z trends • New Vocabulary and Grammar summary • Activities: Practice conversations using proper honorifics / Debate on changing norms in modern Korean society 	
Week 7		Scientific Advancements under King Sejong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: Scientific achievement in Joseon • Activities: Watch a video on Joseon scientific achievements/ Group discussion on how these innovations influenced society/ Practice explaining processes and impacts in Korean 	History Focus
Week 8		Firearms and Gunpowder in the Joseon Dynasty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: Introduction of firearms and gunpowder technology • Activities: Discuss the development of gunpowder weapons 	

Week 9		Koreans' most favorite King and least favorite King <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: Why beloved and not-beloved • Activities: Find and learn historic events during their regimes 	
Week 10		Climate Change and Korea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: Environmental challenges and solutions • Materials: Government policy documents, NGO campaigns • New Vocabulary and Grammar summary • Activities: Debate on Korea's environmental policies / Practice persuasive language 	Environment Focus
Week 11		Movements and Advocacy for the Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: Voices of the environment in Korea • Materials: Interviews with activists, news on the movements • New Vocabulary and Grammar summary • Activities: Analyze language used in movements to protect the environment / Discuss environmental changes and challenges 	
Week 12		The geography of Korea's provinces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme: Understanding the provinces of Korea with diversity • Materials: Watch short videos on provinces • New Vocabulary and Grammar summary • Activities: Discuss the geography of Korea's provinces (강원도, 제주도) /Act as tour guides explaining the geology of 설악산 or 한라산. 	Geography Focus

Week 13		Attractions and Cultural Highlights of Korea's Provinces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Theme: Exploring Korea's cultural and natural attractions ● Materials: Videos and articles on UNESCO World Heritage sites like 경주 불국사 and 해인사. ● New Vocabulary and Grammar summary ● Activity: Plan a weekend trip itinerary to 내장산 or 담양 / Practice using conversational Korean for trip planning. 	
Week 14		Regional Cuisine of Korea's Provinces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Theme: Introducing iconic dishes from each province. ● Materials: Short videos and experts from booklets ● New Vocabulary and Grammar summary ● Activity: Discuss the geography of Korea's provinces and their influence on cuisine (산, 바다, 강) / Compare cooking techniques and ingredients / Match provinces to their signature dishes using a food map. 	
Week 15		Final Presentations and Reflection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Activities: Students present on a selected topic from the course / Group discussion: Reflecting on growth and future goals ● Peer-assessment and sharing course feedback ● Celebrate the end of the course 	

**Please note that the syllabus above is tentative and subject to modification.*