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COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

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at CHAPEL HILL

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To: Administrative Boards of the College of Arts & Sciences

From: Nadia Yaqub, Chair, Department of Asian Studies

Re: Proposal for a concentration in Korean studies

The Department of Asian Studies proposes a new concentration in Korean Studies within the Bachelor of Arts degree program in Asian Studies (B.A. in Asian Studies), beginning in the fall of 2019. Since the Korean program's inception in 2006, we have experienced a dramatic increase in yearly enrollment from 50 students to close to 300 students, impressive success in the Korean minor program, and increase in the number of faculty supported by substantial external funding. Thus, this program is being developed in response to the academic needs of students who seek more intensive training in the area of Korean languages, history, and cultures. In terms of its larger institutional context, this new program is also a natural product of the steady growth of Asian Studies since the academic unit was formally instituted at Carolina in the late 1970s, becoming a full-fledged department in 2004.

Our current faculty resources and existing course offerings already provide a solid infrastructure to meet the academic requirements for the new program. The Korean section currently consists of one associate professor, one assistant professor, one teaching assistant professor, and one full-time lecturer. Additional courses are offered by faculty from the departments of Art and Art History and Economics. This is sufficient to teach all the courses required for the concentration. In the following, we explain the academic requirements for the new concentration, the needs for this new program, and the resources available for its implementation.

Requirements for Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies with a Concentration in Korean Studies (24 Credits):

All General Education requirements apply.

Within the major in Asian Studies, students may take a concentration in Korean Studies, which requires eight courses, in addition to KOR 101, 102, 203, and 204. The eight major courses consist of two to four language courses and four to six literature and culture courses, as described below:

Language Requirement (6-12 credits)

- At least two Korean language courses beyond KOR 204. (Students whose initial language placement is above KOR 305 should consult the department.)
- Students who are already conversant with Korean are highly encouraged to choose one of the literature/culture courses taught in Korean (KOR 407, 408, and 409).

Korean Studies Requirement (12-18 credits)

- At least one of these introductory-level courses (3-6 credits):
ASIA 72 (Transnational Korea: Literature, Film, Popular Culture)
KOR 150 (History, Memory, and Reality in Contemporary Korea)
KOR 151 (Education and Social Change in Contemporary Korea)
It is recommended that students take at least one of these courses either prior to or concurrent with upper-level Korean literature and culture classes.
- Korean literature and culture courses numbered 200 or above (6-15 credits), of which at least two must be chosen from ASIA 350, ASIA 427/PWAD 427/CMPL 527, ASIA 692H, KOR/CMPL 232, KOR/CMPL/WGST 237, KOR 327, KOR 346/CMPL 246, KOR 447/CMPL 547.

Additional Requirements

- Korean through level 4
- Approved courses taken in UNC–Chapel Hill-sponsored study abroad programs or taken from another institution may count in the concentration. No more than one first-year seminar may be counted among the eight major courses.
- With the approval of the associate chair of Asian studies, a student may count a course in directed readings (KOR 496) in the concentration in Korean Studies. To register for KOR 496, a student must obtain the approval of the associate chair and the faculty member who will supervise the project.
- Of the eight courses in the concentration in Korean Studies, at least six must be passed with a grade of C (not C-) or better.
- Placement credit (PL) may not be used to meet core requirements for the concentration.

Before designing a concentration in Korean Studies, we surveyed nine major peer institutions which have Korean Studies concentrations and also offer Korean language: Duke University, Stanford University, Washington University, and the universities of Hawaii, Los Angeles, Michigan, Minnesota, Texas, and Washington. The proposed concentration in Korean Studies with its requirement of two courses beyond 204 level of Korean language falls in the middle range of similar programs at peer institutions in terms of language requirements. While some institutions require more than three years of language study (the University of Texas at Austin and UCLA), others (the University of Michigan) require less. We discovered that our peer institutions require *on average* three years of a Korean language for their majors.

The language study we require for our majors is, therefore, entirely consistent with our peer institutions, and reflects the academic needs specific to Korea. We are confident that the proficiency our students will reach at the completion of a major in Korean Studies will allow them to use the language in a variety of professional settings, and the additional coursework we offer them in Korean literature and culture will provide them with a solid intellectual foundation for continuing their study of Korea.

Emerging Needs

The Department of Asian Studies offered its first Korean language course in fall 2006 to 23 students. A full-time lecturer was hired in 2007 and the Korean program quickly grew to include robust enrollments in first through fourth level language courses. In 2009, the Department was awarded a grant from the Korea Foundation to hire an assistant professor of Korean language and culture. This allowed us to offer advanced fifth and sixth level Korean language courses as well as content courses in Korean Studies. On that basis, we were able to create a highly successful minor in Korean Studies. With the successful new search for a tenure-track assistant professor in 2017-18, the Korean program now has one associate professor, one assistant professor, and two full-time faculty members who teach Korean language starting from the 2018-19 academic year. Considering the short history of the program, the expansion of the program in terms of curricular offerings and faculty positions is noteworthy and a direct result of student demand. We now regularly offer six levels of Korean and have developed 400-level Korean (seventh and eighth level). In the 2017-18 academic year, our Korean language courses enrolled 237 students, and the two content courses we offered that year enrolled 59 students. Our very popular Korean minor currently has 34 students enrolled and a growing number of students have expressed their interests in majoring in Korean studies.

The program is also a direct response to changing times in our state, our country, and the world. In recent decades the state of North Carolina has witnessed an unprecedented demographic shift, with immigration from Asia contributing one of the vital new population currents. Koreans constitute a large and vocal contingent of Carolina's student body; they are also of increasing prominence nationally. From a global perspective, Korea has recently emerged as a major international economic force and geopolitical player and Korean cultural products have attained increased visibility and popularity on the world stage.

Recognizing the increasing importance of Korea in both local and global contexts, peer institutions around the country have responded by strengthening academic programs in this area. They not only offer B.A.s in Korean language and culture but the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees, as well. Carolina is one of the very few major public research institutions with a strong liberal arts tradition that still does not offer even an undergraduate degree in the field. The transformation of Carolina from a self-defined regional university into a leading institution of higher learning in the United States clearly calls for such a program. Indeed, the timely implementation of this proposed curricular initiative has significant implications for maintaining the kind of world-class university image we would like to project, and it contributes to our campus's internationalizing profile.

Curricular Development of the New Concentration

The Department of Asian Studies currently offers an interdisciplinary B.A. degree that requires only four semesters of an Asian language for graduation. This requirement is due primarily to the lack of academic preparation for Asian Studies at the K-12 level for our undergraduate students. Indeed, we believe that this relatively limited language requirement should be maintained to continue to encourage students to pursue the interdisciplinary major in Asian Studies. The proposed new concentration in Korean Studies is not intended to replace or reduce the demand for the existing degree program. Rather, the new concentration will complement the existing program by offering students another option, thus increasing the total enrollments in Asian Studies and consequently the total number of majors. The new

concentration will require students to complete at least two additional semesters of language study beyond the 204 level; it will give them the option to further refine their language skills through literature and culture courses taught in Korean while focusing their remaining Asian Studies coursework within Korean Studies.

A concentration in Korean Studies will stand on its own merit as an attractive concentration for students to choose in an increasingly global world where Korea's cultural heritage and growing prominence spark a natural desire for further study. The events of the last century have rendered the region of intense cultural, political, and economic interest and it is poised to gain even more international significance in years to come. We also envision students opting for the program as part of a double major—in combination with disciplines such as history, anthropology, or sociology. Whether pursued for its own sake or as part of a double major, a liberal arts degree in Korean Studies will prepare students for graduate programs in Korean language and literature, as well as in the fields of history, sociology, education, anthropology, business, law, or public health. Our graduates will also compete well for the increasing number of Korea-focused jobs with the government, in private sectors, and in non-profit/NGO organizations, which require strong language skills combined with knowledge of the region's complex cultural and political systems.

The new concentration in Korean Studies will benefit from a range of Triangle-wide resources for Korea. The Triangle Korea Forum, a partnership between UNC and Duke Korean Studies faculty, enriches the academic study of Korea in our community and has hosted guest lectures, film screenings, and cultural events. The Carolina Korea Forum at UNC also facilitates local and global academic and cultural exchanges and academic and cultural events. A new concentration in Korean Studies thus draws upon, and contributes to, a larger intellectual community in the region.

Faculty Resources and Existing Courses

At present, the Department of Asian Studies has two tenure-track faculty members teaching in the Korean Studies program, as well as two full-time faculty members teaching Korean language. With four FTEs we are able to offer 20 courses every year in Korean language, literature, and culture.

The Korean program currently offers six approved courses regularly taught in Korean: KOR 101, 102, 203, 204, 305, and 306, and two approved courses in 400-level (KOR 407 and 408) that are ready to be taught. To serve the current needs of the students all courses up to 300-levels and at least one 400-level must be offered every year. Moreover, given the current pattern of enrollments, KOR 101 and 102 must be offered in at least four sections and KOR 203 and 204 must be offered in at least three and two sections respectively. Thus, a minimum of sixteen language sections needs to be offered every year.

The Korean program also offers three approved Korean Studies courses in English (KOR 150, 151, and 327). We also offer a course in Asian American Studies (ASIA 350) and other units offer courses whose content deals significantly, though not exclusively, with the Korean arts and economics (ARTH/ASIA 158 and ASIA/ECON 469). Concurrent with this proposal, we are also applying for approval for five additional content courses taught in English (First-Year Seminar: Transnational Korea: Literature, Film, Popular Culture; Body Politics in Modern Korean Literature; Rebel, Lover, Martyr: Gender and Sexuality in North and South Korean Screen Cultures; Imagining the City in Modern Korea: Text, Image, Space; Documenting Diasporas:

Korean Diasporas in Films and Documentaries) and one advanced level Korean language course (Korean through Current Affairs).

Comparison with Other Concentrations in Asian Studies:

The Department of Asian Studies currently offers five concentrations; Interdisciplinary, Arab Cultures, Chinese, Japanese, and South Asian Studies. While the Chinese and Japanese concentrations focus primarily on language training, the Arab Cultures and South Asian Studies concentrations emphasize the study of culture and literature while giving students the option to continue their language training through the advanced levels. The proposed Korean Studies concentration also emphasizes the study of culture and literature but includes enough language study to make our students both competitive and attractive to graduate programs related to Korean and Korean Studies and for future employment in private and public sectors. The language proficiency students will reach at the completion of a concentration in Korean Studies will allow them to use the language in a variety of professional settings. The additional coursework we offer them in culture, literature, and social history will provide them with a solid foundation in the region.

Furthermore, the Korean Studies concentration uniquely emphasizes transnationality in studying Korea. We offer courses in Korean diasporas and transnational Korean films and literature, which will position us as one of the unique and cutting-edge programs among the Korean Studies programs in the nation and worldwide.



Nadia Yaqub

APPENDIX

Courses approved for the Korean Studies Concentration

Language and Advanced Reading Courses taught in Korean:

KOR 101, 102	Elementary Korean I and II (4 credits each)
KOR 203, 204	Intermediate Korean I and II (4 credits each)
KOR 305, 306	Advanced Korean I and II (3 credits each)
KOR 407	Modern Korean Literature and Culture (3 credits)
KOR 408	Changes and Continuities in Korean History (3 credits)
KOR 490	Topics in Korean Language and Literature

Korean Studies Courses taught in English:

KOR 150	History, Memory, and Reality in Contemporary Korea
KOR 151	Education and Social Change in Contemporary Korea
KOR 327	Korean Diasporas
ASIA 350	Asian American Experience
ARTH/ASIA 158	Introduction to East Asian Art and Architecture
ASIA/ECON 469	Asian Economic Systems
ASIA 692H	Senior Honors Thesis

Proposed Courses to be Added to Program:

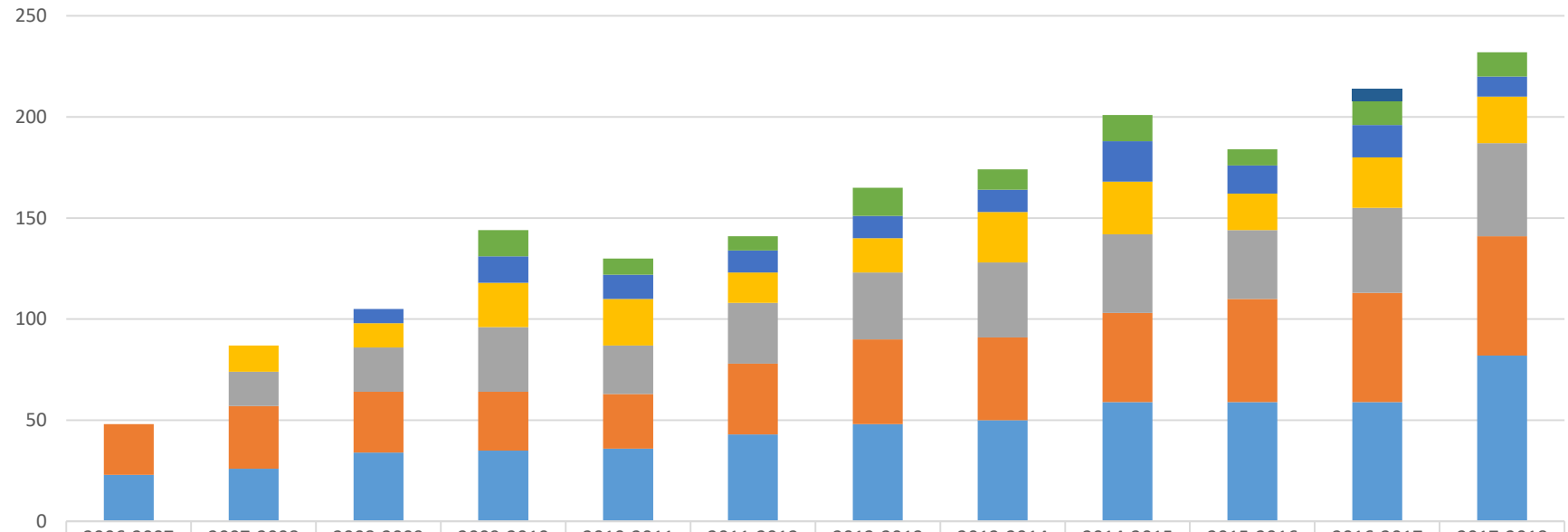
Language Course

KOR 409	Korean through Current Affairs
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Content Courses taught in English

ASIA 72	First-Year Seminar: Transnational Korea: Literature, Film, Popular Culture
ASIA 427/PWAD 427/CMPL 527	Cold War Culture in East Asia: Transnational and Intermedial Connections
KOR/CMPL/WGST 237	Rebel, Lover, Martyr: Gender and Sexuality in North and South Korean Screen Cultures
KOR/CMPL 232	Imagining the City in Modern Korea: Text, Image, Space
KOR 346H/CMPL 246H	Body Politics in Modern Korean Literature
KOR 447/CMPL 547	Documenting Diasporas: Korean Diasporas in Films and Documentaries

Korean (KOR) Language Courses



■ KOR 101
 ■ KOR 102
 ■ KOR 203
 ■ KOR 204
 ■ KOR 305
 ■ KOR 306
 ■ KOR 407