School exam in KOR1506: South Korea's Popular Culture Spring 2024

4 hours

Inspera will automatically save your answer every 15 seconds. After starting the exam, you will see your remaining time in the upper left corner.

You may, at any time, switch back and forth between exam modules in order to check what you have done in each; however, the modules are numbered and you must do each module as a separate unit.

If you want to withdraw from the examination, contact the senior supervisor and make sure you do not submit the answer.

Practical information about the examination**:** This exam consists of three parts. You should respond to all three parts and write 700-1000 words in each part. All questions must be answered in English.

Best of luck!

Part 1

Do you remember any South Korean films released after the end of the 1990s? Can you describe how these films deal with the issues and themes from Korean history, traditions, social reality, and religions? How do you think, what makes the films focusing on Korean past and present meaningful and interesting for non-Korean public? Which theoretical concepts and approaches do you consider most relevant for analysing South Korean cinema since the late 1990s?

Part 2

How would you describe the ways in which masculinity has been represented in South Korean cultural products since the late 1990s, including films, drama, advertisements, animation, and singing and dancing performances? Do you think that the typical ways of representing desirable or model masculinity have undergone changes in the recent decades? If so, what kind of changes could you notice? Do you think that these changes might have been related to the general shifts in gender roles and evolution of gender stereotypes in South Korean society? If so, then in which ways?

Part 3

Can you describe the process through which K-pop as a distinctive cultural phenomenon took shape in 1990s South Korea? What were the major influences during its formative stage? How were K-pop groups and artists managed by their managerial agencies since the mid-1990s? What was the role played by diverse social media platforms in the process of K-pop's internationalisation in the first decade of the twenty-first century and later on? Are South Korean state agencies contributing to globalization of K-pop? if so, then how?