Dept. of X-Cultural Studies

The Department of X-Cultural Studies at Kookmin University Graduate School pioneers an innovative academic paradigm for the 21st century, focusing on deeply exploring the multifaceted and complex phenomena of culture, art, psychology, society, and healing. Through this exploration, it systematically sheds light on the essence of human existence and the meaning of life. Grounded in Science of Feelings, the department places human feelings at the core of all academic inquiry and discussion. Feelings are not merely subjective experiences but essential elements for understanding and interpreting the roots of human behavior and thought. Based on this foundation, the department redefines academic questions and builds new knowledge systems.

Key academic visions include:

- Feeling-centered academic approach: Positioning feelings as the starting point for academic inquiry and a critical factor in understanding cultural, artistic, psychological, and social phenomena.

- Self-understanding and self-reflection as academic pillars: Recognizing feelings as central to human life, the department emphasizes understanding one's feelings as a pathway to self-reflection and broader academic and societal integration.

- Integrated understanding of culture and the world: Viewing culture as the expression of feelings and a narrative of human life, X-Cultural Studies builds a framework that extends from individual feelings to the beauty of culture (art), the structure of the mind (psychology), collective life (society), and healing effects.

Under this academic vision, the department systematically explores human feelings, self-understanding, and global interactions through feelings. It seeks not only to expand academic inquiry but also to provide a foundation for realizing genuine globalization through emotional comprehension. By transcending the limitations of traditional academic structures, the department offers an interdisciplinary approach, redefining human and global understanding through the lens of culture, art, psychology, society, and healing.

❑ **Science of Feelings Major**

Studies the essence and meaning of feelings based on the philosophical inquiries of East and West, developing theoretical and practical methods to apply emotions to various fields such as politics, society, economy, and the arts.

❑ **Art Studies Major**

Explores the cross-cultural systems of meaning embedded in culture and art, going beyond expression techniques and content development to understand the intrinsic value and cultural symbolism of art.

❑ **Social Psychology Major**

Investigates the cultural and cross-cultural meaning systems underlying social structures and individual psychology and behavior, reinterpreting the interaction between individuals and society from a cultural perspective.

❑ **Hallyu (Korean Wave) Studies Major**

Focuses on the traditional cultural structure of Korea's "Jeong" (affection) culture and its globalization process, uncovering how this cultural tradition shaped Korean society and became the foundation for the global phenomenon of Hallyu (Korean Wave).

☐ **Courses**

❑ **Core Courses**

· **Theories and Methods in Cultural Studies (3)**

X-Cultural studies is conducted based on the "Human Science" methodology, which is differentiated from the methodologies that have been researched and developed in the natural sciences and social sciences. This course examines the relevance and limitations of natural science, social science, and human science methodologies.

· **Morden Culture Theories (3)**

In this class, students will master anthropology and traditional cultural approach comprehensively and acquire relevant analytical techniques and ability.

· **Social Culture Scape (3)**

Daily life is social and cultural complex. This course depicts ours daily life from the perspective of the culture scape.

· **Adoption and Hybridzation of Foreign Culture (3)**

X-Cultural Studies understands the encounter of the different civilizations on the basis of cultural interaction not in the limitation of space and time which is regarded as a priori-synthesis in Kant's philosophy. With that manner X-Cultural Studies acquires a clear and distinct knowledge on the acceptance of foreign cultures and its transformation. To achieve this goal X-Cultural Studies specifically conducts theoretical discussion and case studies.

· **Independent Study (3)**

X-Cultural Studies launches an individual research project, by which a student with cultural diversity can explore the world of X(cross)culture with the collaboration of an adviser professor.

· **Thesis Research (3)**

In this class students who are ready to write a thesis think and learn intensively the motivation of their own thesis, so that they are able to initiate their own thesis corresponding to the logic of X-Cultural Studies.

· **Education through Work and Play (3)**

The purpose of this class is to redefine the concept of philosophy, i.e. the meaning of learning. X-Cultural Studies seeks the definition of philosophy as 'study through play' and 'study through work.'

· **The Flow of Thinking in Modern Korea (3)**

Assuming that different thinking harbors different behavior, we review various materials containing people's thinking in modern Korea. In this process, we find out how people's thinking affects their behavior, and distinguish between right and wrong.

· **Seminar in Discourses on Culture (3)**

In this class, we examine meanings of culture accepted in cultural studies and daily life. In this process, we find out that arguments about cultural phenomena such as

imitation, convergence, coexistence, and crash stem from improper understanding about culture, and inquire into the proper meaning of culture.

· **Aesthetics in the East and the West (3)**

Aesthetics is the study of what beauty is, and it can be found within me. Recognizing the beauty by understanding my true self is why we discuss aesthetics.

· **Cultural Studies and Writing (3)**

We think the problems of writing in current academics and explore the practice of writing(of a research paper) in Cultural Studies. We examine how the researchers('I') present their self-reflexivity and understanding of research perspective.

· **Understanding Eastern Classics (3)**

In this class, we divide philosophical classics in the eastern thought tradition into the three era; the ancient times, the middle ages, and the modern times. On the basis of the time series, we are going to read the original texts which is carefully selected by our goal. The mission in this class is firstly to avoid listening to the summaries provided by the so-called philosophical specialists, next is to intend to meet, in person, the philosophers existing in the each era. Finally this philosophical training leads us to enhance the power of our thought to read the original texts, so that we are able to recover the power of the intellect having the judgement distinguishing right from wrong.

· **Understanding Western Classics (3)**

In this class, we divide philosophical classics in the western thought tradition into the three era; the ancient times, the middle ages, and the modern times. On the basis of the time series, we are going to read the original texts which is carefully selected by our goal. The mission in this class is firstly to avoid listening to the summaries provided by the so-called philosophical specialists, next is to intend to meet, in person, the philosophers existing in the each era. Finally this philosophical training leads us to enhance the power of our thought to read the original texts, so that we are able to recover the power of the intellect having the judgement distinguishing right from wrong.

· **Experience of Eastern Classics (3)**

In this class, we aim to read the selected works in the eastern thought. On the basis of our reading we will write our own impressions on the works. So we want to ascertain whether the classics live vividly in our ordinary life. By doing this study, we are able to know what the nature of the right thinking is and to know what the happy life is.

· **Experience of Western Classics (3)**

In this class, we aim to read the selected works in the western thought. On the basis of our reading we will write our own impressions on the works. So we want to ascertain whether the classics live vividly in our ordinary life. By doing this study, we are able to know what the nature of the right thinking is and to know what the happy life is.

· **Reading Philosophy with the Movie (3)**

Movies are a medium that shows potential reality and presents various philosophical topics. This class offers an opportunity to share their philosophical views with such topics and explore the hidden truths behind visible phenomena.

· **Healing through Logos=Mousike=Gymnastike (3)**

"Healing through Logos=Mousike=Gymnastike" is a learning to study how blessed it is for a naturally good feeling to live like its own by reaffirming its own good nature. The essence of this study is a self understanding of feelings, i.e. feelings that always new in an infinite way understand its own actuality under its own eternal truth. Therefore "Healing through Logos=Mousike=Gymnastike" is a self healing by understanding the logic of Logos=Mousike=Gymnastike.

· **Science of Feeling (3)**

Science of Feelings uncovers the truth of feelings suppressed by Kant's pure reason by comparing the philosophy of the East and the West.

· **Xlogical Reading of Classics (3)**

In the reading of classics, students are to find and confirm the practice of the emotional reasoning of great thinkers and to become more confident of themselves by realizing that they themselves have never been far away from the thinker's footsteps in their life's journey.

· **Bodily Understanding of Emotions (3)**

Bodily Understanding of Emotions is a study that allows a participant to further self-explore and experience 'true self/ complete self (완전자인 나)' that one encounters during classic reading exercise by bringing close attention to the natural sound of one's body.

· **Narrative and Cultural Studies (3)**

In the age of the culture and story, we share the importance of narrative thinking and pay attention to the effect of mind in narrative communication.

· **21C Cultural Trends (3)**

This class shed light on the deep structure of cultures to measure the direction of cultural changes.

· **Religion at the Crossroad of Cultures (3)**

Religion as Culture is the focus of interest in this course.

· **Critical Evaluation of Modernism and Postmodernism (3)**

This course critically review the Modern and Postmodern Philosophies from the cross-cultural perspective.

· **Theories on Education (3)**

The educational theory on illustrious virtue(明德) is departed from our flawless nature-being what Heaven has conferred. An accordance with this nature is called Instruction. We will compare this theory with Hermeneutical Education to dispute the differences.

· **Seminar in an Asiatic Mode of Change (3)**

By comparing the developmentalist view of history and the circulative view of history, students will examine the unique characteristic that is embodied in the transformation of Asia.

· **Fundamental Concepts of X-Cultural Studies (3)**

This course explores the fundamental concepts and theories of

cross-cultural(X-Cultural) studies. It analyzes the relationship between culture and feelings, learning how culture influences individual and group experiences from social, psychological, and emotional perspectives. Based on Science of Feelings, students will understand and analyze various cultural phenomena and their interactions from a cross-cultural(X-Cultural) perspective.

❑ **Science of Feelings Major**

· **Introduction to Science of Feelings (3)**

This course introduces the foundational theories and research in Science of Feelings. It covers the definition, physiological basis, and psychological and social roles of feelings, along with the key theories and methodologies in emotion research. Students will explore various fields of Science of Feelings and discuss the nature and functions of feelings from a cross-cultural(X-Cultural) perspective.

· **Feelings and Neuroscience (3)**

This course explores the neuroscientific approach to the relationship between feelings and the brain. It analyzes the brain's functional foundations of feelings and the neural systems that trigger emotional responses, understanding how feelings affect brain structures and functions. Based on the latest neuroscience research, students will learn the brain's scientific mechanisms of emotion and examine how these mechanisms influence the expression and interpretation of feelings from a cross-cultural(X-Cultural) perspective.

· **Science of Feelings Seminar (3)**

This course is a seminar that deeply explores the key theories and research findings in Science of Feelings. Focusing on the physiological and psychological foundations of feelings, it involves reading and discussing recent research papers. Students will learn various research methodologies and theories in Science of Feelings and conduct emotion research from a cross-cultural(X-Cultural) perspective.

· **Science of Feelings Colloquium (3)**

This course is a seminar focused on the latest research findings and theories in Science of Feelings. It explores the physiological, psychological, and social aspects of feelings, engaging in deep discussions and presentations with various researchers.

The course covers the development of Science of Feelings and key theories, analyzing differences in the expression and perception of feelings from a cross-cultural(X-Cultural) perspective.

· **Understanding the Nature of feelings (3)**

This course aims to provide a deep understanding of the nature of feelings, exploring how feelings arise and what they mean in individual experiences and social contexts. It covers the physiological, psychological, and social foundations of feelings, analyzing their impact on human behavior. The course systematically examines the nature of feelings from the perspective of Science of Feelings and explores how cross-cultural(X-Cultural) factors influence the expression and interpretation of feelings.

· **Feelings and Artistic Expression (3)**

This course explores how feelings are reflected in artistic expression. It analyzes the expression of feelings in various art forms such as music, visual arts, theater, and film, examining the role feelings play in the creation and reception of art. The course applies Science of Feelings and cross-cultural(X-Cultural) perspectives to analyze artworks, understanding how emotional expressions are shaped and communicated within different cultural contexts.

· **The History of Understanding Feelings (3)**

This course explores the historical development of the understanding of feelings. From ancient philosophy to modern Science of Feelings, it examines various theories and perspectives on the nature and role of feelings, analyzing how cultural and social changes have influenced the understanding of feelings. The course deepens the contemporary understanding of feelings through their historical development.

· **Theories of Feelings and Literature Review (3)**

This course aims for an in-depth understanding of emotion theories by analyzing various theories of emotion and reviewing relevant literature to identify research trends. It covers the definition, measurement methods, and social and cultural roles of feelings, exploring the development and key theories of Science of Feelings. The course compares and discusses diverse interpretations of emotion theories from a cross-cultural(X-Cultural) perspective.

❑ **Art Studies Major**

· **Design and Culture (3)**

This deals with the theories and practices of design, focusing on culture as a design element.

· **Social History of Arts (3)**

Works of art comprises the spirit of the times and society. By analyzing those works we can understand how society has changed.

· **Developing Culture Contents (3)**

Finding cultural elements in our life-world, this course explores the ways to apply them in developing cultural contents.

· **Cultural Approach to Living Space (3)**

This course analyses functional and disfunctional cultural adaptations in living space construction.

· **Introduction to Art Studies (3)**

This course introduces the fundamental theories and key concepts of art studies. It covers the definition, history, functions, and various forms of art, exploring ways to understand art from the perspectives of Science of Feelings and cross-cultural(X-Cultural) studies. Through the analysis of artworks, the course provides insights into the social and emotional roles of art and offers a comprehensive understanding of different art disciplines.

· **Art History and Criticism (3)**

This course covers the historical development of art and critical analysis. It explores the historical and social contexts of art, applying various critical theories to analyze artworks. The course examines the emotional and cultural meanings of art through the lens of Science of Feelings and cross-cultural(X-Cultural) perspectives, providing foundational knowledge and practical approaches to art criticism.

· **Contemporary Art Theory (3)**

This course explores key concepts and the development of contemporary art theory. It analyzes the meaning and role of art, and its evolution within social and cultural contexts, understanding contemporary art through the lens of Science of Feelings and cross-cultural(X-Cultural) perspectives. The course examines the theoretical foundations and practical applications of contemporary art through various artistic works.

· **Digital Art and Cultural Storytelling (3)**

This course explores the fusion of digital media in artistic creation and cultural storytelling. It analyzes the cultural codes and the role of storytelling in digital art, examining how cultural messages and emotional exchanges are conveyed through various digital platforms. From a cross-cultural(X-Cultural) perspective, the course delves into the expression methods of digital art and its social impact.

❑ **Scoial Psychology Major**

· **Cultural Psychology (3)**

This course attempts show how culture affects self-concept, social concept, motivation and ethics.

· **Philosophical Coaching Practice (3)**

The course provides the opportunities for the students to understand the ways of the existence and perception described in the Eastern and Western Classics. Through this philosophical thinking and reasoning, you can develop and apply coaching communication in real life situation by practicing various questions.

· **Philosophy of Emotion Coaching (3)**

This course explores the philosophical foundations and theories of emotion coaching. It aims to understand the nature and role of feelings and provides methods for individuals and groups to effectively manage and develop their feelings. From a cross-cultural(X-Cultural) perspective, the course analyzes how diverse cultural and social backgrounds influence emotion coaching, linking the scientific approach to feelings with practical applications.

· **Social Psychology Research: Science of Feelings and Q Methodology (3)**

This course explores the application of Science of Feelings and Q methodology in social psychology research. It analyzes the nature and social roles of feelings and uses Q methodology to measure subjective emotional experiences and intergroup emotional differences. The course emphasizes understanding the relationship between feelings and behaviors in cross-cultural(X-Cultural) contexts.

· **Positive Psychology (3)**

This course explores positive feelings, strengths, and the meaning of life, addressing topics such as happiness, well-being, and resilience. Grounded in Science of Feelings, it examines key theories and research in positive psychology and analyzes how individuals and groups foster positive change from a cross-cultural(X-Cultural) perspective.

· **Social Cognition and Judgment (3)**

This course aims to understand how individuals and groups process and interpret social information. It examines the psychological mechanisms, biases, and the role of feelings in social cognition and judgment, exploring how diverse cultural contexts influence these processes from a cross-cultural(X-Cultural) perspective.

· **Xlogical Understanding of Current Social Problems (3)**

As students review the visual materials dealing with various social problems, they are trained to see the troubles consistently stemming from the betrayal of emotional logic in people's thinking, and to get ready for applying the logical thinking to theory evaluation and fieldwork.

❑ **Hallyu (Korean Wave) Studies Major**

· **Seminar in Korean Culture (3)**

This course helps to understand the Korean identity from the X-Cultural perspective.

· **Discourse on Hallyu (Korean Wave) (3)**

We approach the Korean style and Korean identity in the context of universality and speciality. We examine the current cultural discourses about Korean style, and explore the cultural vision of sustainable Korean style.

· **Seminar in Hallyu (Korean Wave) and Cultural Narrative (3)**

We examine the Korean feeling and thought in Korean dramas, films and novels. Moreover we pay attention to the aesthetics of feeling and peace in Korean narrative text.

· **Introduction to Hallyu (Korean Wave) Culture (3)**

This course aims to provide a foundational understanding of Hallyu by exploring its formation and development from historical, cultural, and industrial perspectives. Covering diverse elements of Hallyu such as K-POP, dramas, films, fashion, and food, the course introduces the impact of Hallyu on both domestic and global cultures and societies.

· **Korean Popular Culture and Globalization (3)**

This course explores the globalization of Korean popular culture and its cultural exchanges, analyzing K-POP, dramas, and films. It examines identity and emotional interactions with global audiences from a cross-cultural(X-Cultural) perspective.

· **Hallyu (Korean Wave) and Media Studies (3)**

This course analyzes the role and impact of media in the global success of Hallyu content. It examines how traditional and digital media platforms have facilitated the spread of Hallyu, the cross-cultural(X-Cultural) communication enabled through media, and the emotional responses of media audiences, offering an academic perspective on the interplay between Hallyu and media.

· **Hallyu (Korean Wave) Colloquium (3)**

This course is a seminar-style exploration of various aspects of Hallyu (the Korean Wave). It examines the success factors, global dissemination, and cross-cultural(X-Cultural) impacts of Hallyu content such as K-POP, dramas, films, and fashion. Through interdisciplinary research and critical discussions, the course provides insights into the present and future of Hallyu.

· **Cultural Codes in Korean Novels (3)**

This course analyzes the cultural codes embedded in Korean novels to explore Korean values and identity. It interprets the historical, social, and emotional elements within literary works from a cross-cultural(X-Cultural) perspective, highlighting the uniqueness of Korean culture and its connections to the global context.

□ Faculty Members

Kim, Hyoung Jin
Kangwon National Univ., B.S.
Kangwon National Univ., M.S.
UMIST(Univ. of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology) Ph.D.
Paper Science & Conservation Science/ Environmental Analysis
hyjikim@kookmin.ac.kr

Seong, Dong Kwon
SungKyunKwan Univ., Ph.D.
Confucian Philosophy.
Science of Feelings, Comparative Philosophy & Comparative Cultural Studies
dongkwonseong@kookmin.ac.kr

An, Hyun Sang
Ph.D. in Cultural Studies, Kookmin Univ.
X-Cultural Studies,X-Cultural Socio-psychology
ahspp@kookmin.ac.kr

Cho, Choong Bin
Seoul National Univ., B.S.
Seoul National Univ., M.S.
Univ. of Illinois at Urbana
Theoretical Methodology and Research Methods, Political Behaviors, American Politics
cbc@kookmin.ac.kr