

Discover Global Genre Films!

---Korean/Asian Horror, Sci-fi, Fantasy, Animation and more...

Travel Course Title:

FTV 361I/561I: The Structure of International Film Festivals: Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival

Dates: July 7-18, 2020

Course Description:

This course is a 12-day intensive travel course to study global genre films at the Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BIFAN) in Bucheon, Korea, Asia's largest genre film event. Launched in 1997, BIFAN has successfully established itself as Asia's representative fantastic film festival focusing exclusively on genre films—sci-fi, horror, thriller and noir films—from around the world. In 2019, the festival screened a total of 288 films from 49 countries. The program is divided into world competition section of Bucheon Choice, Korean Fantastic Section, World Fantastic Section, Fantastic Short Films section and other special programs. The festival also presents a film project market that aims to function as the Asian hub of the global genre film industry by presenting new genre film projects from Asia, Northern Europe and South America in collaboration with other international fantastic film festivals including the Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival. It also runs Fantastic Film School, a professional training program for aspiring genre filmmakers, and launched a global VR section which showcases VR films programmed by film festival curators who are leading the VR industry globally.

By attending the festival, students can watch films and participate as observers in all of these different events offered by the festival and gain a first-hand knowledge of how a film festival can foster new and aspiring filmmakers and promote collaborations within regional and global genre film industry. Since BIFAN specifically focuses on genre films, watching a wide selection of genre films in both feature-length and short film format, students will have a rare opportunity to experience and learn about genre films and filmmaking, particularly those of East Asia and South Asia. In addition, students will interact with festival organizers including the Festival Director and programmers to discuss how a large-scale international film festival is organized and programmed. Students will also have opportunities to have Q&A sessions with festival's invited directors and talents from around the globe. Furthermore, they will observe the Fantastic Film School and the film market both of which feature pitching sessions for new genre film projects. Thus, this travel course combines academic studies of global genre films and practical experience of the global/Asian genre filmmaking business at work in an international film festival setting.

Bucheon is a suburban city of Seoul, the capital city of South Korea. While being the site of BIFAN, Bucheon is also known as the city of comics where Korea's largest cartoon festival takes place and more than 70% of comic artists in Korea are creating works. Students will have opportunities to visit many innovative cultural facilities in the city including Korea Manhwa (Comics) museum, Manhwa Creation Studio, Manhwa imagination streets, and K-comics

Station. This will allow students to expand their horizon of storytelling arts beyond film into comics and cartoons.

The class will also include meetings with the Festival Director and Programmers to understand and ask questions about how the film festival is organized as well as the status of genre filmmaking and distribution from the global perspective. Through these meetings, students will study the role of film festivals in regard to genre filmmaking, important genre auteurs in world cinema, and the issues of transnational genres. Film screenings supplemented by daily lectures and discussions, readings, and attendance of post-screening Q&As and panel discussions.

Other activities

- We will also tour the city of Seoul and watch the unique percussion performance of the famous Nanta
- Dinner with guest directors
- Visit Korean Comics Museum in Bucheon

The cost range for each student is \$1829.00 - \$2012.00 (not including the airfare). The cost includes lodging, festival badges, group tour and three group dinners with guest directors.