This course examines major Korean film genres (blockbuster, crime thriller, Western, historical drama, sci-fi, horror, melodrama, social satire, etc.) and their contemporary canons within local sociopolitical, cultural contexts. A particular focus will be given to Bong Joon-ho’s internationally acclaimed genre films including *Parasite*, the winner of the 2020 Academy Best Picture Award. Screenings include Bong Joon-ho’s crime thrillers *Memories of Murder* (2003) and *Mother* (2009) and his science fiction films *The Host* (2006) and *Snowpiercer* (2014) as well as other notable genre films made by Bong’s contemporary Park Chan-wook (*Joint Security Area* [2000], *Sympathy for Mr. Vengeance* [2002], and *Oldboy* [2003]). The final week of the course will culminate with an in-depth analysis of *Parasite* (2020), comparing it with Bong’s inspiration and classic thriller *The Housemaid* (1960) and another contemporary film about class warfare *Burning* (2019).