



Korea University International Summer Campus (KU ISC) 2018

Embark on a unique summer

June 26, 2018 ~ August 2, 2018

ISC383 – Korean Literature and Culture

I . Instructor

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II . Textbook

Required Textbook : Course Reader
Recommended :
Additional Readings

III . Course Description and Objectives

Course Description:

This course explores Korean literature and culture by examining some of major literary works and other related materials of Korea with a focus on the period from the early twentieth century till today. Literature is not a mere reflection of social and historical events. However, at a time of radical social and historical changes, literature becomes a venue to reflect diverse issues the members of the society experience. Korean literature in the twentieth century in this context offers a way to examine Korean culture and society at a time when Korea makes a rapid change from a pre-modern to a modern society. Colonialism, war, economic development and its side effects, military dictatorship and democratic movements—all became parts of Korean literature and left their prints on the formation of Korean culture. By engaging with social issues reflected in the literary works and considering how the authors and audience responded to the issues critical to their lives, we will come to understand how Korea became the Korea today.

Readings for each session is relatively short, given that this is an intensive summer course. Still, readings will generate various questions related to the meaning of literature, its relation to society, concepts of freedom, identity and gender. For a comparative study of different artistic mediums, several film versions of modern Korean fiction are included in the syllabus. Active participation of students both in class discussions and through presentations is essential for a successful completion of the course. Remember that we are studying Korean literature and culture in KOREA. We should take advantage of all the available sources in Korea to make our exploration of Korean literature and culture a live experience.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will learn general literacy in Korean literature and culture and will be able to identify Korean literature and recognize its social and cultural characteristics.
2. Students will learn how individuals, social groups, historical periods, and major problems, intersect with the power relationships of the time, and how this intersection shapes the self-understanding of each individual and region and their social norms, value systems, and political decision-making.
3. Students will ask significant questions about Korean literature and culture and other mediums through which various social issues are expressed, and they will understand how individuals with different perspectives respond differently to the issues at hand.
4. Students will effectively communicate complex concepts and arguments, both orally and in writing, to compare Korean literature and culture with the cultures of their native countries, and will learn multiple perspectives on the issues individuals and society share.

IV. Grading

Attendance	:	15 %	
And Participation	:		
Midterm Exam	:	30 %	
Final Exam	:	30 %	
Group	:	10 %	
Presentation	:		
Weekly	:	15 %	5 why questions (5 weeks x 3 points/each=15)
Assignments	:		

Course Requirements:

1. Regular attendance.
2. Active class participation
3. Group Presentation
4. Five "Why" Questions (One question per week for the first five weeks.): In order to receive credits, the questions should be posted on the Blackboard Discussion Board before the class time on the reading that is scheduled to be discussed on the day. I.e, your question should be submitted before we discuss the material in class.
5. Midterm and Final exams: For both midterm and final exams, a study guide will be provided in advance.

V. Class Outline

Date	Topics and Readings		Remarks
June 26 (Tue)	Orientation Day		
June 27 (Wed)	From the foundation myth to "Gangnam Style" via modernity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Readings: "The Myth of Tan'gun"; "From the Sea to a Boy" (in-class reading); Video: Gangnam Style		

	I. Formation of Modernity		
June 28 (Thu)	Literature and the Life of the "People" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings: "Potatoes"; "A Lucky Day"; "Wings" 		
June 29 (Fri)	Colonial Experiences in Modern Korean Poetry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Han Yongun, Yi Sanghwa, Yun Tongju 		
	II. Literature and Historical Consciousness (1950s, 60s, and 2018)		
July 2 (Mon)	1960s Literature and the Paralyzed Generation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings: "The Gray Club" (1958); "Seoul: 1964, Winter" • Film: "Our Twisted Hero" 		
July 3 (Tue)	Economic Development and Marginalized People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings: "A Dwarf Launches a Little Ball" 		
July 4 (Wed)	Pure Literature versus Literature of Commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings: Kim Suyŏng, Kim Ch'unsu, Kim Chiha 		
July 5 (Thu)	Military Dictatorship, Deracination of Tradition, and Alienated Individual <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: Kim Chiha (Part II; Aerin); "The Cruel City" (1978); • Film: <i>Hwaryŏhan Hyuga</i> 		
	III. Divided Nation and Democratization (1950s, 60s, and 2010s)		
July 9 (Mon)	Midterm		
July 10 (Tue)	Korean War, Division, and Reconciliation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings: Hwang Sunwŏn, "Cranes"; Bruce Cumings, "Division, War, and Reunification," 		
July 11 (Wed)	War and Humanism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: "The Rainy Spell" 		
July 12 (Thu)	New Forms of Democratization and Digital Youth in Korea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading: selections from <i>Igniting the Internet: Youth and Activism in Postauthoritarian South Korea</i> 		
	IV. Gender Politics and Social Norms		
July 16 (Mon)	New Women and Challenge to the Tradition: Kim Myŏngsun, Na Hyesŏk, Kim Iryŏp		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading: Na Hyesök, "Ideal Women"; Kim Wönju, "Awakening" 		
July 17 (Tue)	Gender and Prohibition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readings: Kim Hyöng-Kyöng, "The Woman Who Smokes" 		
July 18 (Wed)	Gender, History, and Politics: The Comfort Women <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readings: Nora Okja Keller <i>Comfort Woman</i> (selections) Film: "Apology" 		
July 19 (Thu)	Gender, Violence, and Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading: Han Gang, "The Vegetarian." 		
	V. Religion and Korean Society		
July 23 (Mon)	Shamanism: tradition and its place in modern society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readings: Park, "Korean Religions" (section 1: Shamanism); Seong-nae Kim, "Women, mourning, and the ritual for the death of family" Video: "The Daughter of God" 		
July 24 (Tue)	Buddhism and the meaning of religious devotion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readings: Kim Tong-ni "Tüngsin-bul" (Lifesized Buddha) 		
July 25 (Wed)	Confucianism in Korea Culture: family, society and politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readings: Park, "Korean Religions" (section 3: Confucianism) 		
July 26 (Thu)	The East meets the West: Catholicism encounters traditional Korea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Readings: Hahn Moo-sook, <i>Encounter</i> (selections) by 		
	VI. Reflections on Korea Today		
July 30 (Mon)	Final Exam		
July 31 (Tue)	Group presentation I		
Aug 1 (Wed)	Group presentation II		
Aug 2 (Thu)	Wrap-up and graduation		