

Instructor: Ann Choi  
 Tuesdays (SC120) and Thursdays (SC201), 2:50-4:10 p.m.  
 Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:45-2:45 p.m.  
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**About the Course:**

This course is designed to help students acquire a broad understanding of Korean literature and its scope. A continuing course will dovetail in the spring. During this semester, we will cover representative Korean literary works of poetry and prose, beginning with classical poetry of various types; we will also venture into twentieth century fiction and film. Although our main focus will be literary, we will also read supplementary materials culled from sources in the social sciences. Since literature can often be read through the lens of historical and social events, relevant issues rising out of Korea's historical and socio-political realities will be discussed with given works.

**Course Objectives:**

- To understand the different dynastic periods and literatures associated with each.
- To relate to the dynamic of the shared literary language and literature in the classical East Asian context.
- To grasp the relationship between the idea of "premodern" and "modern" literatures.

**Required Texts:**

Peter H. Lee, ed., *The Columbia Anthology of Traditional Korean Poetry*  
 Kim Chong-un and Bruce Fulton tr., *A Ready-Made Life: Early Masters of Modern Korean Fiction* (RML)  
 Ch'ae Mansik, *Peace Under Heaven*, tr. by Chun Kyongja  
 Hahn Moo-sook, *Encounter*, tr. by Ok Young Kim Chang  
 On-line Reserves

The above books are to be purchased from Rutgers Bookstore (across from the train station).

**On Reserve:**

Carter Ekert, et.al., *Korea Old and New: A History* (KON)  
 Peter H. Lee ed., *Sourcebook of Korean Civilization*, vols 1 and 2  
 \_\_\_\_\_, *A History of Korean Literature*  
 \_\_\_\_\_, *Modern Korean Literature: an Anthology*  
 Keith Pratt., *Everlasting Flower: A History of Korea*

**Evaluation:**

Class Participation and Response Papers: 1/3

Come to class prepared to comment on the assigned materials. Each week (except for wks 1, 7, 9, 12, and 15) you will be asked to write a page long response paper in class.

\*Midterm: 1/3

4-5 pages. This exam will consist of two passages drawn from assigned materials. Students are asked to identify them and to write an essay on each responding to questions provided.

\*Final Paper: 1/3

You are asked to choose a topic from a given list and to write a 6-8 pg. paper to be turned in by Monday of the finals week. Topic must be chosen by Week 13. For students seeking help, a draft is encouraged to be turned in by the last Thursday class. **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

\*Students are asked to be aware of plagiarism which is seriously taken as academic dishonesty and punishable according to University regulations (see <http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>). Use of another's words or ideas must be noted properly, with every direct quotation in quotation marks and properly cited within the text.

## I. The Building of Culture and the Idea of Korea

Week 1. Foundation Myths: Toward a definition of culture and the question of "Koreaness"  
(9/4, 9/6)Th. Introduction.

HW: from *Columbia Anthology (CA)*, pp.3-27; 203-205

Week 2. Writings in Classical Chinese

(9/11) Tues. Silla literature. HW: *CA*, pp. 206-227

(9/13) Thurs. HW: Handout; *CA*, pp. 29-53. "Koryo Society" (On-Line Reserve)

Week 3. Koryŏ : Written and Oral literatures

(9/18) Tues. Begin watching *Musa*. HW: *Popular Beliefs and Confucianists* (On-line Reserve).

(9/20) Thurs. Finish *Musa*. HW: "Songs of Flying Dragons," *CA* pp.59-68.

## II. Individual, Society and Literature

Week 4. Chosŏn Dynasty Literature

(9/25) Tues. *Sijo* (*CA*, pp.69-90).

(9/27) Thurs. *Sijo* continued. HW: *CA*, pp., 91-128

Week 5.

(10/2) Tues. *Sasol sijo* HW: *CA*, pp. 147-159.

(10/4) Thurs. *Kasa*. HW: *CA*, 161-182.

Week 6. The Virtuous Woman: Reputation and Justice

(10/9) Tues. "The Memoir of 1801" from *Memoirs of Lady Hyegyŏng* (On-line Reserve)

(10/11) Thurs. Folk Songs. HW: *CA*, 263-279.

Week 7. Vernacular Prose and P'ansori: Comedy and Satire

(10/16) Tues. Film: "On Killing Myself," *CA*, p. 262. *Korea on the Eve of Her Opening* (On-line Reserve)

(10/18) Thurs. Film: "Chunhyang" HW: Start reading *Encounter*.

## III. Making of Modernity

Week 8. Confucian Gentleman and the Quest for Reality

(10/23) Tues. *Encounter*

(10/25) Thurs. *Encounter* continued

Week 9. (10/30) Tues. Finish *Encounter*.

(11/1) Thurs. MIDTERM.

Week 10. Style and Form of Modern Fiction

(11/6) Tues: from *A Ready-Made Life* ("A Society that Drives You to Drink," "A Tale of Rats," "The Photograph and the Letter," "The Haunted House")

(11/8) Thurs: *A Ready-Made Life* continued: "A Descendant of Hwarang," "When the Buckwheat Blooms," "Phantom Illusion".

Week 11. Colonialism and Satire

(11/13) Tues. *Peace Under Heaven*

(11/15) Thursday: *Peace Under Heaven* continued.

Week 12.

(11/20) Tues. finish *Peace Under Heaven*.

(11/22) Thurs. THANKSGIVING.

Week 13.

(11/27) Tues. Poetry

(11/29) Thurs. Poetry continued.

Week 14. Image of the New Woman

(12/4) Tues. Handout (Yi Yuksa, Yun Tongju)

(12/6) Thurs. from *A Ready Made Life*: "Wife," "Mystery Woman," "The Lady Barber."

Draft of final paper due (12/6).

Week 15. (12/11) Tues. Wrap up session; Return drafts.

**\*Final Paper (7-8 pages) Due Monday, 12/17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m, at Professor Choi's office.**