

Korean Literature in Translation II
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
Rutgers University
College Avenue Campus

Spring 2008

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About the Course:

This is a course on Korean literature in English. This semester, we will cover fiction and poetry by both early twentieth century and postwar Korean writers. We will also cover literature by contemporary Korean and Korean American writers. The last will be read in the light of expanding and challenging the geographical boundaries of something called 'Korean' literature. We will be addressing issues such as the nature of poetry and its function in the history of a nation, as well as the historical background to the rise of the modern Korean novel. After reading a collection of short stories by the prolific contemporary writer Pak Wansö and a novel by the diasporic writer Patti Kim, we will be discussing issues addressed by post-immigration writers and film makers relevant to the global context of culture and identity.

Required Texts (to be purchased at Rutgers Bookstore):

Chun, Kyung-Ja et al, *My Very Last Possession* (Armonk: East Gate, 1999)
Bruce Fulton tr., *Modern Korean Fiction* (NY: Columbia University Press, 2006)
Patti Kim, *A Cab Called Reliable* (NY: St. Martin's Griffin, 1997)
Ann Lee, *Yi Kwangsu and Modern Korean Literature: Mujöng* (Cornell: Cornell East Asia Series, 2005)
McCann, David, *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Korean Poetry* (NY: Columbia University Press, 2004)

The following books are available at Alexander library:

Susan Choi, *The Foreign Student*
Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*
Bruce and Ju Chan Fulton, *Land of Exile*
Peter H. Lee ed., *Modern Korean Literature*
Suh Ji-moon tr., *The Golden Phoenix: Seven Contemporary Korean Short Stories*
Walter Lew ed., *Premonitions: The Kaya Anthology of Asian Northamerican Poetry*
Lew and Finkl ed., *Köri: Anthology of Korean American Fiction*
Pak Wansö, *The Naked Tree*
Cathy Song, *Picture Bride*

Evaluation:

Class Participation (including pop quizzes and pair presentation): 1/3

Come to class prepared to comment on the assigned materials. Pop quizzes will be given from time to time to check that you are doing the readings. During the semester, each pair of students will choose a day in which to lead a discussion on the readings assigned.

Midterm Exam: 1/3

The exam will consist of identification questions (40%) and an essay (60%).

Final Paper: 1/3

The final paper will be 6 to 8 pages long and based on a topic to be approved by the instructor.

Class Schedule

Wk 1

Tuesday (1/22): Introduction, “Twentieth Century Korean Literature and Beyond”; modern poetry.

Thursday (1/24): Poetry

Colonialism and the Modern Novel

Wk 2

Tuesday (1/29): *Mujöng*, pp. 1-77.

Thursday (1/31): *Mujöng*, pp. 77-188.

Wk 3

Tuesday (2/5): *Mujöng*, pp. 188-269.

Thursday (2/7): *Mujöng*, pp. 270-348.

Wk 4

Tuesday (2/12): from *Modern Korean Fiction* (“A Lucky Day” and “Potatoes”)

Thursday (2/14): from *MKF* (“Crows,” “The Shaman Painting,” and “The White Rabbit”)

Wk 5

Tuesday (2/19): from *MKF* (“Wings,” “When the Buckwheat Blooms,” and “My Innocent Uncle”)

War and Its Aftermath

Thursday (2/21): from *MKF* (“the Ritual at the Well,” “Coarse Sand,” “Far from Home.”)

Wk 6

Tuesday (2/26): from *MKF* (“Another Man’s Room,” “The Son,” and “The Knife Blade”)

Thursday (2/28): from *MKF* (“Ballad,” “Footprints in the Snow,” and “The Old Hatter”)

Wk 7

Tuesday (3/4): from *MKF* (“Mother’s Hitching Post,” “Wayfarer,” and “The Gray Snowman”)

Realism and the Poetry of Democracy

Thursday (3/6): from *Columbia Anthology of Modern Korean Poetry*. Film: “Welcome to Dongmakgol.”

Wk 8

Tuesday (3/11): from *CAMKP*. Finish watching “Welcome to Dongmakgol.”

Thursday (3/13): Midterm

S P R I N G B R E A K

Wk 9

Tuesday (3/25): from *CAMKP*

Thursday (3/27): from *CAMKP*

Urbanization and the Korean Family

Wk 10

Tuesday (4/1): from *My Very Last Possession*

Thursday (4/3): from *MVLP*

Wk 11

Tuesday (4/8): from *MVLP*

Thursday (4/10): finish *MVLP*

From Across the Pacific

Wk 12

Tuesday (4/15): *A Cab Called Reliable* (up to p. 46)

Thursday (4/17): *A Cab Called Reliable* (pp. 47-89)

Wk 13

Tuesday (4/22): finish *A Cab Called Reliable*

Thursday (4/24): Handout: Korean American Poetry

Film: *The Grace Lee Project*.

Wk 14

Tuesday (4/29): More Korean American Poetry.

Thursday (5/1): wrap up.

The final paper is due on Thursday, May 8th, at 2:50 p.m., in Professor Choi's mailbox (Scott 330).