

01:574:310 Gender and Social Change in Korea

Spring 2017

T/TH 1:10-2:30 PM

Murray 111

Professor Kim

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Office: Scott Hall 336

Office Hours: T 4:15 – 6:00 PM & by appointment

Course Description

This course explores the shifting constructions of femininity and masculinity, women's and men's experiences and roles in social change in Korea from the late 19th century into contemporary times. Concepts such as New Woman surfaced in discourses at the turn of the last century, as gender became one site through which notions of 'tradition' and 'modern' were defined. Such ideological struggles had concrete consequences for women and men during the colonial period as they were mobilized like never before in public arenas as imperial subjects under Japanese colonial rule (1910-1945). With the end of the colonial period, the battle over the ideal image of woman and man continued in full force as both North and South Korea steamed full speed ahead towards modernization. We will examine how gender intersects with social, political, economic, and cultural developments in modern Korea.

Course Goals

- Understand modern Korean history with a focus on women's history.
- Examine the way gender is constructed in different historical periods, intersecting with other systems of oppression such as race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality.
- Read and interpret texts as sources for the past and the present, critically assessing their reliability and credibility.
- Write clearly and concisely, synthesizing multiple texts, to make persuasive and insightful arguments.

Course Structure

Classes will include combinations of lectures, discussions, and student presentations. Each week, students are responsible for submitting one weekly journal entry no later than noon the day of class (Tuesday or Thursday), which should examine an example from media, including music, TV shows, commercials, Internet sites related to the week's readings in some way to apply your understanding and analysis of the readings to current events, including 1 or 2 questions to bring up for class discussion. Students are also required to make one oral presentation based on these journal entries on an aspect of gender in Korean culture that is relevant to understanding the issues raised by the week's readings.

Requirements & Grade Distribution (based on a maximum of 100 points)

Class Attendance and Participation 10 Points

Oral Presentation 10 Points

Weekly Media & Popular Culture Journal 25 Points

Midterm Essay Exam (5-6 double-spaced pages, 12 pt font) 25 Points

Final Paper (6-8 double-spaced pages, 12 pt font) 30 Points