Course Description
The course examines one of the most prominent and enduring poetic forms of traditional Korea, *sijo*. *Sijo*, a three-line verse form written to be performed in a musical setting, emerged in the latter part of the Koryŏ dynasty (918-1392), flourished through the Chosŏn dynasty (1392-1910), and has transformed itself into contemporary forms. First, we will situate *sijo* within the larger context of traditional East Asian poetic tradition, and then explore its unique structural and thematic properties through the lens of the language, religion and culture of Korea. Lastly, we will analyze the historical backgrounds of modified *sasŏl sijo* of the 18th century and modern *sijo* of the 20th century, and uncover cultural and linguistic implications of *sijo* translation and the current popularity of *sijo* in North America.

The course consists of three units: Unit 1 "Poetry in Traditional East Asia" introduces traditional East Asian verse forms that have influenced Korean vernacular poetry such as *hyangga*, *Koryŏ sogyo*, *sijo* and *kasa*, and chronicles the rise of *sijo* as a distinctive genre in Korean literature; Unit 2 "The Structure of *Sijo*" focuses on the linguistic structure of *sijo* in its variant forms (*p'yŏngsijo*, *ŏssijo* and *sasŏl sijo*) and the interface between literature and music; and Unit 3 "Thematic and Prosodic Expansion" deals with the development of *sijo* and its resilience to absorb a wide range of themes, poetic devices and metrical qualities both in historical and contemporary settings.

No background in Korean language and literature is required as class discussions will be based on the English translations. However, students who are proficient in the Korean language will be encouraged to read the texts in the original.

Course Learning Goals
This course satisfies the following Asian Languages and Cultures Department Learning Goals [http://asianstudies.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/learning-goals].
- Acquire in-depth knowledge of East Asian Literature in translation, theoretical texts, and critical material on those literary and/or theoretical texts.
- Analyze and interpret major texts and issues concerning East Asia and relate them to other areas in the humanities following a comparative approach.

Course Requirements

Class Attendance and Participation
Each student is required to complete all assigned reading before class and is responsible for presenting on the week’s readings and leading discussion at least two times in the semester.
Writing Assignments
Every three weeks, students are responsible for submitting written responses no later than 3:00 AM the day of the class, will be collected in individual student portfolios that serve to document the student’s evolving insights into the subject matter of the course as well as their ability to convey their thoughts, both orally and in written form, in a mode appropriate to the field of East Asian Studies and Korean Studies.

Unit Tests
Two unit-tests at the end of each unit will be given in order to evaluate students’ understanding of the primary texts and their ability to assimilate critical interpretations of the materials.

Final Project
A research proposal will be submitted in Week 11 and the presentation of the proposal will be scheduled in Week 14. The final research paper (a 10-page single-spaced) is due on May 4 (Monday). All written assignments will be evaluated based on the logical presentation of the ideas and issues covered in class reading and discussion, as well as on the originality of critical reflection of these issues.

Grading
Class Attendance and Participation: 10%
4 Written Responses: 20%
Two Unit Tests: 30%
Other Assignments and Quizzes: 10%
Final Project: 30%

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to observe the highest standards of academic honesty at all times. For more information on the definition and policies regarding academic integrity at Rutgers see the website with the same title: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/

Required Texts
To purchase:

For reference:

All other required material will be available in electronic format on the sakai site for this course (https://sakai.rutgers.edu).
Course Schedule

UNIT 1: Poetry in Traditional East Asia

Week 1  
**Course Introduction** (1/21 & 24)  
McCann (2000) *Early Korean Literature*

Week 2  
**Poetry as Music and Traditional Poetic Forms of East Asia (1/28 & 31)**  
“The Great Preface” to the Classic of Poetry (*Anthology* 64-66)  

**Regulated Verse**  
Chapter 4: Wang Wei “The Artifice of Simplicity”  
Chapter 8: Li Po “A New Concept of Genius”  
Chapter 11: Tu Fu

Week 3  
**Japanese Poetry (2/4 & 2/7)**  

Week 4  
**Early Korean Poetry (2/11 & 14)**  
Kim, Hunggyu (1997) Understanding Korean Literature  
Lee, Peter. (2017) “*Hyangga*” & “*Koryǒ Songs*”

Week 5  
**Diglossia—Classical Chinese vs. Vernacular**  

**Unit 1 Test & Wiki Project (2/18 & 2/21)**
UNIT 2: The Structure of Sijo

Week 6
Linguistic Analysis of P’yŏng Sijo (2/25 & 28)

Week 7
Linguistic Analysis of P’yŏng Sijo (3/3, 3/6)

Week 8
Thematic Analysis of P’yŏng Sijo (3/10 & 3/13)
Lee, Peter. (2017) “Sijo” (51-98)

Week 9
Thematic Analysis of P’yŏng Sijo (3/24 & 3/27)

Week 10
Thematic Analysis of P’yŏng Sijo (3/31 & 4/3)
Unit 2 Test

UNIT 3: Thematic and Poetic Expansion

Week 11
Sasŏl Sijo (4/7, 4/10)

Week 12
Modern Sijo in Korea (4/14, 4/17)

Week 13
Translation and Adaptation into English Literature (4/28 & 5/1)
The Sijoforum

Week 14
Final Presentations