

Introduction to Korean Culture (01:574-210) Fall 2018 T/F 9:50-11:10 T (Scott 104), F (Scott 106)

Professor: **Young-mee Yu Cho** (yucho@rutgers.edu)
Office Hours: **Tuesday 11:10-12:10 & by appointment**
Office: **Scott Hall 339**

Textbooks:

Kim, Kyung Hyun & Youngmin Choe (2014) *The Korean Popular Culture Reader*. Duke University

Seth, M. (2016) *A Concise History of Modern Korea*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.

Readings on sakai

Course Description

Incorporating feature films, documentaries, novels, and original sources in translation, this introductory course provides an overview of Korean culture and history with an emphasis on the major changes and continuities in Korea in the modern period (1876 to the present). We will explore particular themes relevant to understanding Korea such as Confucianism, modernization, colonialism, nationalism, industrialization, democratization, gender relations, US-Korea relations, and popular culture in contemporary Korea.

Course Goals

- Understanding of Korean culture and history, leading to critical reflection on contemporary issues surrounding the peninsula.
- Ability to read and interpret texts as historical sources for the past and the present, i.e. understand the difference between primary and secondary sources, critically assessing their reliability and credibility
- Ability to write synthesizing multiple texts to make persuasive and insightful arguments, written clearly and concisely.

Core Curriculum Learning Goals Met by this Course:

H: Social Science & History – Understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.

K: Historical Analysis – Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science.

O: Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.

S2: Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision.

U: Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly.

V: Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

Department Learning Goals Met by this Course:

Acquire in-depth knowledge of at least one East Asian language (Chinese, Japanese, or Korean) and the literature and culture of one or more of these countries; effectively use tools (reference works, etc.) and technology appropriate to learning an East Asian language; and analyze issues

concerning East Asia and relate them to other areas in the humanities and social sciences following an interdisciplinary approach.

Course Structure

Classes will include combinations of lectures, slides, films, and discussions. Each week, you are responsible for submitting written responses no later than 3:00 AM the day of class, which should lay out your critical understanding and analysis of the readings, and 1-2 questions or issues that you would like to raise for discussion. You should be prepared to present these in class to facilitate discussion. During some weeks, you will create wiki entries based on the reading and additional research. We will also spend some weeks playing a role-playing game, which requires the writing of “memorials.” More detailed directions will be given out before these particular assignments.

Requirements & Grade Distribution

Class Attendance & Participation 10%

Quizzes 5%

Weekly Written Responses (1 page minimum) 20%

Midterm Exams: 20% x 2=40%

Oral Presentation 5%

Final Paper (8-10 double-spaced pages) 20% [Due on Dec. 17 (Monday), 2018 by 12 noon]

Course Policy

- *Plagiarism*: All written work should be composed in the student’s own words and the ideas of others should be properly cited. It is the responsibility of all students to know and adhere to the university’s policy on plagiarism. If you have any questions concerning this policy or about documentation of sources in work you produce in this course, feel free to ask me.
- *Assignments*: All reading and written assignments are required and should be done before class. Late assignments will be deducted a full letter grade for each late day (i.e. A to a B, B to a C...).
- *Attendance*: Regular class attendance is mandatory. More than 4 absences can result in a failing grade for the course.
- *Gadgets*: All communication devices must be turned off for the duration of the class, and laptops may be used only to take notes.
- *Disabilities*: Students with disabilities who are seeking consideration for services or accommodations should immediately contact the Office of Disability Services at (732) 932-2848, 151 College Ave.
- *Final note*: This syllabus may be modified throughout the semester, and it is the responsibility of each student to keep up to date of any and all announcements made in class.

GUIDE TO CRITICAL READING

Whenever you read a text you should ask yourself the following questions.

1. Is the text a primary or a secondary source?
 - In important ways you read the two types of text differently.
2. What was the author’s basic intent in writing it?

- PRIMARY: What interests was the author attempting to advance / defend / critique / oppose? Put another way, what “discourse” was s/he taking part in?
 - SECONDARY: What position is the author staking out? What earlier scholarly consensus is s/he agreeing or disagreeing with?
3. What initial questions does the author pose?
 4. Why are answers to those questions important?
 5. What is the author’s central argument and how forcefully is it stated?
 6. What types of evidence does the author employ to support his/her argument?
 7. Does the author’s argument rest on any unarticulated (and thus undefended) assumptions?
 8. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the author’s argument?
 9. Are you persuaded – do you agree with the author’s argument? Why, or why not?

GUIDE TO WRITTEN RESPONSES

Hand in your written response for the corresponding week, including the following components:

- Do NOT summarize but demonstrate that you did the reading by engaging with some of the main themes and issues that you found interesting and/or problematic. In other words, share your comments, critiques and reactions by addressing:
 - What are the main arguments / points of the reading you found interesting?
 - Are there any problems with the arguments, and if so, what are they?
- Posit one or two questions or issues you would like to raise for discussion.
- Identify terms, concepts or words that you did not understand (even after using a dictionary) and would like to go over in class.

Class Schedule

Tue. 9/4 w1 Introduction	Fri. 9/7 Politics of History, Foundation Myth
9/11 w2 Tradition vs. Modern	9/14 Tradition vs. Modern
9/18 w3 Korean Language & Script	9/21 Korean Language & Literature
9/25 w4 Native and Adopted Beliefs	9/28 Ch’unhyang & Chosŏn Values
10/2 w5 Japanese Colonialism	10/5 Japanese Colonialism
10/9 w6 Two Koreas	10/12 North Korea
10/16 w7 Individual Meetings	10/19 Midterm 1

10/23 w8 Industrialization	10/26 Industrialization
10/30 w9 Democratic Movement	11/2 Democratic Movement
11/6 w10 Cyberculture	11/9 Korean Music
11/13 w11 Sports Nationalism	11/16 Food and Travel
11/20 w12 Korea in Global Perspective	11/21 (WED) Friday class Midterm 2
11/27 w13 Korea in Global Perspective	11/30 Presentations
12/4 w14 Presentations	12/7 Presentations
12/11 w14 Presentations	

Weeks 1 & 2: Introduction, Politics of History, Foundation Myths

- Seth (2016) vol. 1: *A Concise History of Premodern Korean*: Introduction (1-5), Seth (2016) vol. 2: Introduction (1-8), Conclusion (301-305)
- *The Korean Popular Culture Reader* (2014) Introduction.
- Sourcebook of Korean Civilization (vol. 1) (1993): Origins of Korean Culture (3-7)
- Nelson, L. (2008): Is “Korean” an ephemeral quality?: Anthropological perspectives on Korean social and cultural dynamism (26 pages)
- Park, J-S. (2008): *Hanryu* (the Korean Wave): Transnational Flows of South Korean Popular Culture (10 pages)
- Film: “My Heart”(2001)

[Optional]

- Hyung Il Pai (2000): *Constructing ‘Korean’ Origins*, Formation of Korean Identity (1-21)

Week 3: Korean Language, Script & Literature

- Yu Cho (2002) “Diglossia in Korean Language and Literature: A Historical Perspective.” *East Asia: An International Quarterly*. (3-23)
- Shin, J. et al. (2013) “Characteristics of the Korean Language.” *The Sounds of Korean*. (1-15). Cambridge Univ. Press.
- *Standards for Korean Language Learning* (2012): Introduction (523-531)

Week 4: Religions

- Duncan, J (1997): Confucian Social Values in Contemporary South Korea (49-60)
- Clark, D. (1997): History and Religion in Modern Korean: the case of Protestant Christianity (169-195)

- “The Art of the Singer: *P’ansori*.” Ed. Peter Lee. *The Anthology of Korean Literature*. Univ. of Hawaii Press.
- Film “Ch’unhyang” (2000)

[Optional]

- Buswell, R. (1992) *The Zen Monastic Experience* (69-106)
- Fairbanks and Craig (1989): *Yi Dynasty Korea: A Model Confucian Society* (300-323)

Weeks 5 & 6: Japanese Colonialism and Colonial Legacy

- Seth (2016). Chapter 2: Colonia Korea, 1910-1945.
- Seth (2016). Chapter 3: Division and War, 1945-1953.
- Son, Min-Jung. “Young Musical Love of the 1930s.” Chapter 11 (Kim & Choe 2014)
- Toshiyuki (1995): *The Clan Records* (7-46)

Week 6: Colonial Legacy and Divided Korea

- Seth (2016). Chapter 4: North Korea: Recovery, Transformation, and Decline, 1953-1993.
- Seth (2016) Chapter 7: Contemporary North Korea, 1993-2015
- Demick, B. (2015) *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*.
- Films: “Over the Border” (2006), *JSA* (2000)

Weeks 8 & 9: South Korea from 1953-1997

- Seth (2016). Chapter 5: South Korea: From Poverty to Prosperity, 1953-1997.
- Seth (2016). Chapter 6: South Korea: Creating a Democratic Society, 1953-1997
- Film: “Taxi Driver” (2017)

Weeks 10 & 11

- Kang, Inkyu. “It all started with a bang: The Role of PC Bangs in South Korea’s Cybercultures” Chapter 3.
- Cheon, Jung Hwan. “Bend it like a Man of Chosun: Sports Nationalism and Colonial Modernity.” Chapter 9.
- Joo, Rachael Miyung. “‘She became our strength’: Female Athletes and (Trans)national Desires.” Chapter 10.
- Maliangkay, Roald. “The Popularity of Individualism: The Seo Taiji Phenomenon in the 1990s.” Chapter 13.
- Epstein, S & James Turnbull. “‘Girls’ Generation? Gender, (Dis)Empowerment, and K-Pop.” Chapter 14.
- Fedorenko Olga. “South Korean Advertising as Popular Culture.” Chapter 15.
- Cwiertka Katarzyna J. “The Global Hansik Campaign and the Commodification of Korean Cuisine.” Chapter 16.
- K. Han (2011) “The ‘Kimchi Wars’ in Globalizing East Asia: Consuming Class, Gender, Health, and National Identity” (pp. 149-166)
- Watch: Episode 1, “The Kimchi Chronicles”

Weeks 12 & 13

- Seth (2016). Chapter 8: Contemporary Korea, 1997 to 2015
- Korean Diaspora
- Film: “Castaway on the Moon” (2009)