

History 260 (GE-Arts), Spring 2017. Dramatizations of Korean History
Tu. & Th. 12:30-1:50pm, VKC 158

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Office Hours:
Tu. & Th. 2-3, and by appt.

Overview: This course explores how dramatizations of Korean history, specifically cinematic depictions, reflect both art and history. We will analyze and interpret these dramatizations and ask how they illuminate major historical themes such as national identity, external relations, and political and social conflict. Korean history presents a special opportunity for such an exercise because of South Korea's very sophisticated popular culture industry, and because of this industry's welcome dedication to re-imagining historical figures, events, and settings.

Objectives: As a GE Arts course, this course prepares students to achieve the following five learning objectives:

- A. Analysis: Increase the student's ability to *analyze creative endeavors*, including describing them with appropriate vocabulary, examining their formal elements, and *engaging in research* to understand their contexts.
- B. Crafting: Expand the student's knowledge about *the creative process*, as exemplified by specific works studied and by the student's *engaging in creative work*.
- C. Connectivity: Deepen the student's appreciation of the *connections between creative endeavors and the concurrent political, religious, and social conditions*; show how these endeavors fulfill cultural functions or fill cultural needs.
- D. Context: Enrich the student's discernment of creative production by increasing knowledge of its theoretical, *historical*, and aesthetic bases *across history and cultures*.
- E. Engagement: Increase the student's understanding and appreciation of the arts through exposure to *creative products from our times*.

In interpreting and analyzing our dramatizations, then, students will apply the following questions:

1. How do these dramatizations seek to shape the viewer's (or reader's) understanding and perception? What larger message are they trying to convey, and how are they crafted in a way that furthers this message?
2. What are the significant differences, such as in narrative strategies, visual representations, and points of emphasis between the works?

3. Finally, how do these dramatizations enhance our understanding of a particular historical event or theme, and of Korea today?

Class Procedure: Students will demonstrate their engagement with these issues through both speaking and writing. In class, although the instructor will give presentations and show short video clips, most of the time will be spent discussing the assigned works, which must be viewed and read before class. Every student is expected to engage actively in class discussion.

And while the focus will be on the dramatizations, for background knowledge we will read relevant chapters from the instructor's own book, *A History of Korea, 2nd ed.* (HK), that introduce the main events and themes, including historical debates, for each week.

Assignments: In addition to class discussion, students will be required to submit the following assignments:

1. A weekly interpretive, comparison paper of the assigned works for the week (300-500 words, or about 1-2 pages double-spaced). This is due Thursdays at noon through Blackboard.
2. An in-class, ten-minute presentation on a film assigned for a particular class session. This presentation introduces background information regarding that film's production and reception, raises further questions for class discussion, and most importantly, provides the student's own interpretation. These presentations will begin in the fifth week, and sign-ups will be available in the third week of class.
3. A critical analysis presentation, either as a video or a saved slide show with narration, on one set of films and/or texts regarding a particular historical theme. This theme can be a certain period, a topic, a person, or something else worked out in consultation with the instructor. But the overriding purpose is to demonstrate how the dramatizations, as art, seek to portray history, and furthermore, what this suggests about contemporary Korea. The presentation must last 15 minutes and will be due at the end of the semester in place of a final examination.

Grading:

Discussion participation (including attendance): 35%

Weekly comparison paper: 40%

In-class presentation: 5%

Critical analysis presentation: 20%

**An Incomplete (IN) can be granted only in case of documented illness or emergency that occurred after the 12th week of the semester. The work must thereafter be submitted within one year of the date of the assignment.

Sources: DVDs of all assigned films will be made available on 4-hour reserve in Leavey Library, or through the course Blackboard site. All readings, aside from *A History of Korea*, will be made available through Blackboard.

How to Get the Most Out of This Course

The best way to succeed in this course is to carefully do the weekly reading in advance of class, and then watch the assigned film, also in advance. You should of course attend ALL of the class sessions and come to class ready to participate in discussion and raise questions. Take advantage of the human resources--professor, tutoring and counseling services, the writing center--to ensure that you are keeping up satisfactorily. It also helps to conduct a regular review exercise and step back occasionally to think of all the information in light of the larger historical patterns and themes. This will improve not only your performance but the value of what you gain from this course, which ultimately is to appreciate how dramatizations of history can reflect historical understanding and help stimulate thinking about historical themes.

A Note on Integrity, Academic and Otherwise

Please make sure to observe common courtesies in class and refrain from disruptive or distracting behavior. This includes non-class activities with your computers, the engagement in which is obvious and disrespectful. As for written assignments, any work not done by you is simply cheating, and any unattributed use of others' writing constitutes plagiarism. Please refer to the [USC Guide for Avoiding Plagiarism](#) or the [USC Tutorial for Avoiding Plagiarism](#). Anyone who violates these rules will fail this course and could face severe punishment, including expulsion, from the university.

Disability Services

If you are requesting academic accommodations based on a disability, please register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) in order to obtain a letter of verification for approved accommodations. Please provide me with that letter as soon as possible. DSP (740-0776) is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 to 5:00 on the weekdays.

SEMESTER PLAN

Week 1. Korean History and Its Dramatizations

Jan. 10: Introduction

Jan. 12: Themes of Early Korean History

HK Chapters 1-2, 4, 6

Week 2. Royalty and the People in the Early Joseon Dynasty

HK Chapters 7-8

Jan. 17: "The Face Reader" (2013)
Jan. 19: "The King and the Clown" (2005)
First weekly paper due, Thursday at noon

Week 3. Responses to the Great Invasions, 1590s-1630s
HK Chapter 9

Jan. 24: "The Admiral" (2014)
Jan. 26: "War of the Arrows" (2011) [Youtube]

Week 4. Political Intrigue in the 18th Century
HK Chapters 10-11

Jan. 31: "The Throne" (2015)
Feb. 2: "Eternal Empire" (1994)

Week 5. Challenges of a New Era, Late 19th to Early 20th Century

Feb. 7: HK Chapters 13-15
"Gabi" (2012)
Feb. 9: HK Chapter 16
"YMCA Baseball Team" (2002)

Week 6. Female Emancipation in the Colonial Period

HK Chapter 17
Feb. 14: "My Heart" (2000)
Feb. 16: "Blue Swallow" (2005)

Week 7. Urban Life and Modern Change in Colonial Korea, 1920s-1930s

HK Chapter 18
Feb. 21: "Radio Dayz" (2008)
Feb. 23: "Modern Boy" (2008)

Week 8. Independence Movements, Collaboration, and Liberation, 1930s-1940s

HK Chapters 19-20
Feb. 28: "Assassination" (2015)
Mar. 2: "Taebaek Mountains" (1996)

Week 9. The Korean War and National Identity, 1950-1953

HK Chapter 21
Mar. 7: "Taegukgi" (2005)
Mar. 9: "Welcome to Dongmakgol" (2005)

Week 10. Youth and Change in South Korea, 1960s

HK Chapter 23

Mar. 21: "Harmonium in My Memory" (1999)

Mar. 23: "Once in a Summer" (2006)

Week 11. The Era of President Park, 1960s-1970s

HK Chapter 24

Mar. 28: "The President's Barber" (2004)

Mar. 30: "A Single Spark" (1995)

Week 12. The Struggle for Democracy, 1970s-1980s

HK Chapter 26

Apr. 4: "The Attorney" (2013)

Apr. 6: "May 18" (2007)

Week 13. The Epic Sweep of South Korean History

Apr. 11: "Ode to My Father" (2014)

Week 14. Historical Reckoning

Apr. 18: "Peppermint Candy" (2000) [Youtube]

Apr. 20: "The Old Garden" (2006)

Week 15. Sexuality and Gender at the Turn of the 21st Century

HK Chapter 27

Apr. 25: "Bungee Jumping on Their Own" (2001)

Apr. 27: "My Sassy Girl" (2001)