

**Spring 2018**  
**KOR 110 M -- Themes in the Modern and Contemporary Culture of Korea:**  
**History, Memory, Nostalgia**

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Classroom: INTS 1121

This Syllabus is a contract between myself and the class, as well as a comprehensive information packet for your course. You can find most of your answers about the course in this Syllabus, and it'd be a good idea to familiarize yourself with it.

**Course Description and Objective**

We will read, view, and analyze works about modern and contemporary Korea, focusing on the thematic concerns of history, memory, and nostalgia. The aim of this course is to gain a comprehensive understanding of modern and contemporary Korean culture through the ways in which various works of literature, film, and other cultural products show, provoke, question, and/or affirm conceptions of personal and collective history, memory, and nostalgia in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and up to the present.

**Readings and Required Texts**

The reading material will be posted on iLearn as PDF files; you should print it out and bring it on relevant days. With a few exceptions, there will be an assigned reading for each meeting, which may be up to 75 pages. Some reading materials will be dense and theoretically complex, and you may need to read them several times, and take reading notes. Completing all reading assignments before class is important for you to do well on the reading quizzes, understand the lectures, and participate in the class discussions. Film viewings will take place in class and the films will be available at the Media Library afterwards. You are responsible for making sure you get all handouts and relevant course material.

**Components of Your Course Grade**

Attendance: 10%  
Presentation: 10%  
Quiz (Total): 30%  
Midterm Exam: 30%  
Term Paper (= Final Exam): 20%

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory. However, you are allowed 3 absences without penalty, and you do not need to explain these absences to me: use them wisely for any kind of emergencies (illness, schedule conflicts, etc.) and make sure to get notes from a classmate. Student with 4 absences will lose ½ a letter grade from their course grade, those with 5 absences will lose a full letter grade, and those with 6 or more absences will fail the course. As for late arrival or early departure, each will count as a ½ absence. Repeated offence will negatively affect your participation grade, and may result in a lower course grade. Disruptive behavior such as falling asleep, chatting, texting, surfing the web, etc., will also negatively affect your grade, even if I do not point out such actions each time.

**Term Paper**

We may have writings that are graded or ungraded, and on-line and/or in-class, in addition to the formal essay you submit on the last day of class. All writings done in class or during exams must be legible. For the term paper, I will give you a list of topics beforehand, from which you will choose one. Your papers must meet the MLA guidelines for academic papers. All papers you submit must be legible, typed in a 12 Times New Roman or Courier font, double-spaced, titled and spell-checked, with a 1" margin all around and stapled together with no covers. Please note that the due date for the essay is the last day of the class and I will not accept late papers. I will comment on your essay up to a week before the deadline.

### **Quizzes and Exams**

We will have reading quizzes, which will always take place in the beginning of the class. Quizzes cannot be made up. All students must take the Midterm exam according to the official course schedule, unless they have an extremely compelling reason and have documents to prove it. In the latter case, they must take the exam before the assigned date.

### **A Note on Plagiarism**

PLAGIARISM is the deliberate, verbatim copying, paraphrase, or purchase of someone else's written work or ideas without proper citation or acknowledgement. ANY FAILURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE OR CITE PROPERLY the writings or ideas of others, from books, articles, websites, etc., WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC 'F' GRADE FOR THAT WORK AND POSSIBLY FOR THE COURSE. In addition, the incident will be reported to the student conduct office.

### **E-Mails**

When you e-mail me, *always*

- use your UCR e-mail account
- include a succinct subject line
- make sure to read the Syllabus before e-mailing me with a question
- identify yourself by name and the course you're taking
- address me either as "Professor" or "Prof. Jeong"
- give me at least 12 hours to get back to you.

### **Class Presentation Guide**

Each student should find a partner and sign up to do a short presentation together on the course material for 10% of their course grade. The presentation should be about 10 minutes long and you can choose from the two methods below. Feel free to utilize the multi-media presentation opportunities our classroom allows.

One: You can do a general presentation on the theme of "history, memory and nostalgia." You may bring in a helpful personal history or anecdote during your presentation, or present a specific text you've read other than the course readings, which is directly relevant to the themes of this class. In your presentation bring up issues for further discussion or questions.

Two: You can lead the class discussion for the first 10 minutes of the class, based on your understanding of the readings for that day. Rather than doing a 'plot summary' of the readings, bring up the salient points that you find interesting, questionable, objectionable, etc. given the thematic focus of our course, and turn those into discussion topics or questions for the class.

Your presentation will be observed for its preparedness, engagement with the class, and understanding of the material. Naturally, the more interesting, in-depth your questions are, the more likely you are to present or lead a thought-provoking discussion.

## **Class Schedule**

### *Week 1*

4/3 Syllabus and introduction. Brief account of the historical and political background of modern and contemporary Korea, and how history, memory, and nostalgia become important issues in the context of Korean culture and society.

4/5 “The Koreans, Their Culture and Personality”; “The Cheong Space ...”

### *Week 2 \*Begin signing up for presentations.*

4/10 “The Sunset over My Hometown” by Yi Mungu.

4/12 “Resurrecting the Ruins of Japan’s Mythical Homelands: Colonial Archeological Surveys in the Korean Peninsula and Heritage Tourism” by Hyung Il Pai

### *Week 3*

4/17 *Nostalgia* by Wilson (excerpts)

4/19 *Yesterday’s Self* (excerpts) by Ritivoi

### *Week 4*

4/24 Colonial era in contemporary Korean movies; viewing and discussion

4/26 Colonial era in contemporary Korean movies; viewing and discussion

### *Week 5*

5/1 “The Rainy Spell” by Yoon Heung gil.

5/3 MIDTERM EXAM in class

### *Week 6*

5/8 Korean War on Film; in class viewing and discussion

5/10 Korean War on Film; in class viewing and discussion

### *Week 7*

5/15 “Minjung Cultural Movement and the Construction of Popular Culture in Korea” by Chungmoo Choi

5/17 “The Road to Samp’o” by Hwang Sokyong.

### *Week 8 \*Topics for the Paper Assignment on iLearn.*

5/22 “Human Decency” by Kong Chiyong.

5/24 “His Father’s Keeper” by Ch’oe Yun.

### *Week 9*

5/29 *Contentious Kwangju*, Introduction by Shin; “Victims and Heroes” by Baker.

5/31 “Nation of the Sun King” by Cumings.

### *Week 10*

6/5 Peer Editing Session: Bring Term Paper Draft to Class

6/7 *Term Paper (in place of the Final Exam) Due in class*

Remaining questions; Discussion of how recent past is recollected in S. Korea