

EA 190 What Is Literature For?

Time: Wed. 3:00-5:50 p.m.

Place: HIB 469

Instructor: Serk-Bae Suh (UC Irvine)

Office Hours: Wed 6:00-7:00 p.m./Thu 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Course Description:

Why do we read literature? What do we want from reading novels and poems? What does it mean to read literature in the age of the internet and interactive media? What is literature for? To answer these questions, the course traces the history of modern Korean literature from its emergence to its current state by examining a number of critical essays that address the value of literature and reading a diverse range of literary texts that reflect the different views of literature's value.

All required readings are in English.

Course Requirements:

Students are required to complete all the weekly readings before coming to class and to participate actively in classroom discussion. 35 percent of the total course grade is allocated to weekly reports. Starting from the second week, a report is due each Wednesday in class except for weeks 9 and 10 (the term paper proposal is due instead on Mar. 7). In their reports, students should demonstrate their understanding of weekly assigned readings by discussing the main theme of each reading. Students are also required to write a term paper in which they engage in discussion on themes and problems concerning modern Korean literature by drawing on the course materials. In addition, students are required to submit their term paper proposals and present them in class, and they are encouraged to comment on each other's paper project in class as well.

Participation and Attendance: 20%

Weekly Reports: 35%

Ten minute term paper proposal presentation (3 Pages, double-spaced, Time New Roman 12): 10%

Final Term Paper (10 Pages, double-spaced, Time New Roman 12) 35%: A hardcopy of the paper should be submitted at the instructor's office (HIB 472) before 5:00 P.M. on March 23.

Reading List:

Students should get hold of a copy of the following book.

Lee, Ann Sung-hi. *Yi Kwang-su and Modern Korean Literature: Mujǒng* (Cornell University East Asian Program, 2005)

It is available for purchase at major online bookstores.

https://www.amazon.com/Yi-Kwang-Modern-Literature-Cornell/dp/188544527X/ref=sr_1_5_tw_i_pap_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1514072102&sr=8-5&keywords=yi+kwang-su+and+modern+korean+literature

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/yi-kwang-su-and-modern-literature-ann-sung-hi-lee/1127183909?ean=9781885445278>

A library copy is also put on reserve at Langson library.

The readings listed below are available for download from the course dropbox at <https://eee.uci.edu/myeee/>.

Ch'oe Chaesŏ. "The Expansion and Deepening of Realism," *Imperative of Cultures: Selected Essays on Korean History, Literature, and Society from the Japanese Colonial Era*. Eds. Christopher P. Hanscom, Walter K. Lew, and Youngju Ryu (University of Hawai'i Press, 2013): 165-180.

Han Yongun. "The Silence of Love," trans. Chang-soo Koh.

Hwang, Jong-yon. "The Emergence of Aesthetic Ideology in Modern Korean Literary Criticism: An Essay on Yi Kwangsu," *Korea Journal* 39:4(1999): 5-35.

Hwang, Jong-yon. "The Story of the Novel in Korea: A Modern Episode," *Korea Journal* 45:3 (2005): 209-229.

Hwang, Jong-yon. "After the Apocalypse of Literature: A Critique of Karatani Kojin's Thesis of the End of Modern Literature," *Korea Journal* 47:1(2007): 102-125.

Hwang, Sŏgyŏng. "A Dream of Good Fortune," *Land of Exile: Contemporary Korean Fiction*. Eds. Marshall R. Pihl, and Bruce and Ju-chan Fulton. (M.E. Sharpe, 1993): 115-149.

Kim, Chiha. "With Burning Thirst," trans. Brother Anthony of Taizé

Kim, Namchŏn. "The Judas Within and Literature," *Imperative of Cultures: Selected Essays on Korean History, Literature, and Society from the Japanese Colonial Era*. Eds. Christopher P. Hanscom, Walter K. Lew, and Youngju Ryu (University of Hawai'i Press, 2013): 181-196.

Kim, Tongni. "The True Meanig of Pure Literature" and "A Personal Opinion on Writing Literature," *Imperative of Cultures: Selected Essays on Korean History, Literature, and Society from the Japanese Colonial Era*. Eds. Christopher P. Hanscom, Walter K. Lew, and Youngju Ryu (University of Hawai'i Press, 2013): 197-208.

Kim, Uchang. "Literature and the Global Market,"

Miller, J. Hillis. "What is Literature?" *On Literature* (Routledge, 2002): 1-23.

- Pak, Wansö. "Mother's Hitching Post," *Modern Korean Fiction: An Anthology*. Ed. Bruce Fulton and Youngmin Kwon (Columbia University Press, 2005)
- Paik, Nak-chung. "The Idea of a Korean National Literature Then and Now," *positions: east asia cultural critique* 1:3(1993): 553-580.
- Park, Min-gyu. "Raccoon World," *Azalea* 1(2007): 193-214.
- Peterson, Mark. *A Brief History of Korea* (Facts of File, 2010): 141-244.
- Pyön, Hye-yön. "Mallow Gardens."
- Yi, Kwangsu. "The Value of Literature," *Azalea* 4(2011): 287-291.
- Yi, Kwangsu. "What is Literature?" *Azalea* 4(2011): 293-313.
- Yi, Sang. "Wings," *Modern Korean Fiction: An Anthology*. ed. Bruce Fulton and Youngmin Kwon (Columbia University Press, 2005): 65-84.

Class Schedule:

Week 1. What is Literature?

Jan. 10. J. Hillis Miller, "What is Literature?"

Week 2. History

Jan. 17. *A Brief History of Korea* (Peterson, Mark)

Week 3. Origins of Modern Korean Literature

Jan. 24. "The Value of Literature" (Yi, Kwangsu)/"What is Literature?" (Yi, Kwangsu)/"The Story of the Novel in Korea: A Modern Episode" (Hwang, Jong-yon)/ "The Emergence of Aesthetic Ideology in Modern Korean Literary Criticism: An Essay on Yi Kwangsu" (Hwang, Jong-yon)

Week 4. Heartless I

Jan. 31. *Yi Kwang-su and Modern Korean Literature: Mujong* (Lee)
p.1-p.173 (Introduction and sections 1-43)

Week 5. Heartless II

Feb. 7. *Yi Kwang-su and Modern Korean Literature: Mujong* (Lee)
p.173-p.348 (sections 44-125)

Week 6. Realism, Modernism, and Pure Literature

Feb. 14. "The Expansion and Deepening of Realism" (Ch'oe Chaesö)/"The Judas Within and Literature" (Kim, Namchön)/"The True Meaning of Pure Literature" and "A Personal Opinion on Writing Literature" (Kim, Tongni)/"Wings" (Yi, Sang)

Week 7. National Literature

Feb. 21. "The Idea of a Korean National Literature Then and Now" (Paik)/"The Silence

of Love” (Han)/“With Burning Thirst” (Kim)/“A Dream of Good Fortune”
(Hwang, Sŏgyŏng)/ “Mother’s Hitching Post” (Pak)

Week 8. End of Modern Literature

Feb. 28. “After the Apocalypse of Literature: A Critique of Karatani Kojin’s Thesis of the
End of Modern Literature” (Hwang Chongyŏng)/“Raccoon World” (Park,
Mingyu)/“Mallow Gardens” (Pyŏn)

Week 9. Paper Proposal Presentations

Mar. 7. 10 minute presentation per person

Week 10. Paper Proposal Presentations

Mar. 14. 10 minute presentation per person