

ALL 3536 Modern Korean Literature

Fall 2016. MW 2:30-3:45

Course website: <http://moodle.umn.edu/>

Instructor: Travis Workman (University of Minnesota)

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the literature of colonial Korea and South Korea, focusing on some of the most significant Korean novels, short stories, and poetry of the 20th century. We discuss the emergence of literature as a cultural institution under Japanese colonial rule and how proletarian literature writers criticized the idea of “art for art’s sake” from a critical realist position. Moving to literature of South Korea (est. 1948), we focus on how novelists and poets have responded to a tumultuous political history of national division and occupation, the Korean and Vietnam wars, dictatorship, and rapid economic modernization. We consider changing notions of the relationship between culture and politics. We discuss the various literary techniques, styles, and genres that artists have used to represent historical events, to confront political oppression and violence, and to experiment with thought and aesthetic form. No prior knowledge of Korean language, literature, or history is required.

Required Readings (Books available at UMN Bookstore):

Rat Fire: Korean Stories from the Japanese Empire, ed. by Hughes, Kim, Lee, and Lee

Pak Wan-sŏ, *The Naked Tree*

Cho Se-hŭi, *The Dwarf*

Han Kang, *The Vegetarian*

Hwang Sun-wŏn, *Lost Souls*

All other assigned readings are available at the course website: <http://moodle.umn.edu/>

Assignments

1. Three short essays (2-3 pages double-spaced, MLA or Chicago format). These are interpretive essays in which you use textual evidence to prove a primary thesis about the texts. They must include at least four direct quotations from the text under consideration.
2. Three online Moodle quizzes (multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions).
3. Midterm paper (5-6 pages, double-spaced, with proper MLA or Chicago formatting and citations).

4. Final paper (7-8 pages, double-spaced, 12 point, with proper MLA or Chicago citations). Due by 12/20, 8pm.

NOTE: When romanizing Korean names or words, please use the McCune-Reischauer system or the Korean romanization system consistently. Korean names are listed with the family name first. Please use the family name when abbreviating in your papers.

Grading:

10% Attendance and Participation

15% Quizzes

20% Short Papers

25% Midterm paper

30% Final Paper

Course Schedule:

9/7 Introduction to the course.

Japanese Colonial Period (1910-1945)

9/12 Yi Kwang-su, "What is Literature?"; "On National Reconstruction"

9/14 Yi Kwang-su, "Maybe Love?"

9/19 Kim Tong-in, "Potatoes"

9/21 Pak Yŏng-hŭi, "The Hound." Kimberly Chung, "Proletarian Sensibilities: The Body Politics of New Tendency Literature (1923-27)"

9/26 Cho Myŏng-hŭi, "Naktong River."

9/28 Kang Kyŏng-ae, "Salt." "Darkness"

10/3 Kim Sa-ryang, "Tenma." Leo T.S. Ching, "Give Me Japan or Nothing Else!: Postcoloniality, Identity, and the Traces of Colonialism."

10/5 Hwang Sunwŏn, "Adverbial Avenue"

Moodle Quiz #1 and Paper #1 due by 10/9

Liberation, Occupation, and the Korean War (1945-1960)

10/10 Hwang Sunwŏn, "House"; "To Smoke a Cigarette"

10/12 Pak Wan-sŏ, *The Naked Tree*, p. 1-99

10/17 Pak, p. 100-126

10/19 Pak, p. 127-164

10/24 Pak, p. 165-188

10/26 Hwang Sunwŏn, "Deathless"

Paper #2 due by 10/30

10/31 Watch *Stray Bullet* (1961).

11/2 Finish *Stray Bullet*. Hwang Sunwŏn, "Lost Souls"

Moodle Quiz #2 by 11/6

11/7 Hwang Sunwŏn, "Voices."

11/9 Cho Se-hŭi, *The Dwarf*, p. 1-47

Midterm paper due 11/13

Park Chung Hee Era (1960-1979)

11/14 Cho, p. 48-91

11/16 Cho, p. 92-128

11/21 Cho, p. 129-158; Jini Kim Watson, "Seoul and Singapore as 'New Asian Cities': Literature, Urban Transformation, and the Concentricity of Power"

11/23 Cho, p. 158-219

Thanksgiving Break

Contemporary

11/28 Han Kang, *The Vegetarian*, p. 1-60

11/30 Kang, p. 61-120

Paper #3 due by 12/4

12/5 Kang, p. 121-160

12/7 Kang, p. 161-180

Complete Moodle Quiz #3 by Friday 12/11

12/12 Hwang Sunwŏn, "Scarecrow"

12/14 Final paper workshop

Final papers are due by Wednesday, 12/20. Submit papers via Turn it in.