

Introduction to Korean Literature

Love, Marriage, and Family

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Instructor: Yoon Sun YANG
Associate Professor of Korean and Comparative Literature
World Languages & Literatures
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Program
Boston University

Course Description

This course gives a broad overview of Korean literature while focusing on three intertwined themes: love, marriage, and family. Viewing these not simply as universal human experiences but also as ever-changing cultural institutions, this course will ask what roles Korean literary texts have played in reproducing socially sanctioned modes of intimacy and at the same time in challenging and redefining them from the thirteenth century to the contemporary era. How have Korean love stories changed from the time when marriage was in principle a family matter, presided over by the authority of the patriarchy, to the time when the mutual feeling of love has become a precondition of marriage? To what extent have Korean writers reworked modern European notions of love and home since the early twentieth centuries? How has the notion of the modern family evolved from colonial-period to contemporary postindustrial Korea? All readings and discussion are in English; No previous knowledge of Korean is required.

Course Requirements and Grades

Over the course of the semester, you can earn 100 points all together. The grade will be based on the following criteria:

1. Attendance and class participation (10 points)

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Occasionally a quiz will be given in place of attendance check (based on the readings assigned for the day). Any unexcused absence or tardiness will impact your grade. Two absences without excuses will lower your grade by one grade A-to B+, for example). Your grade will be dropped by a full letter if you miss more than four classes. Please be punctual. Three times of unexcused tardiness and/or early departure will be counted as one unexcused absence. In the case of illness or emergency you should notify me by e-mail before class. Each student should regularly and actively contribute to class discussion. Lack of participation will result in a deduction of points.

2. Important Historical Dates Assignment (5 points)

The instructor will give students a list of dates that are significant in Korean history. Students should figure out what happened on these dates by the help of history books, reliable Internet sources, or other resources and add a simple note to each incident and key event(s) (1-2 sentences). The completed assignment should be submitted to the instructor via *Turnitin* by Sunday, September 9, 10 pm.

Useful Internet Sources:

A Timeline of Korean History (Columbia U): http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/timelines/korea_timeline.htm

Korean History Database (in Korean): <http://db.history.go.kr/>

BBC South Korea-Timeline: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-15292674>

Recommended Readings:

Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*

Michael Robinson, *Korea's twentieth-century Odyssey*

Carter J Eckert; Ki-baek Yi, *Korea, old and new: a history*

Kyung Moon Hwang, *A History of Korea: An Episodic Narrative*

_____, *Rationalizing the Rise of the Modern State, 1894-1945*

3. Reading Responses (20 points)

Students are asked to post a short analysis of one of the assigned literary texts (150 words, quotations not included). This task is to help students not only to finish assigned readings in a timely manner but also to develop close reading skills. Each week the instructor will ask students to focus on a specific aspect of the literary text (such as characters, the setting, the narrator, the plot, description, etc.). They should post your textual analysis on the BU Learn course site and read their classmates' postings prior to class. The instructor will give short feedback on the students' weekly postings by using the "comment" function of the Blackboard Discussion Section. Please refer to it to improve your skills.

4. Take-home Midterm (20 points)

The midterm will be an essay exam. It is a take-home exam, which means that students can consult all of the course materials in composing their answers but are NOT allowed to consult with your classmates. The exam will be given to students during class on Thursday, October 4. Students should submit their exams via *Turnitin* (in blackboard) by Saturday, October 6, 10 pm.

5. PowerPoint Presentation (16 points)

All students are required to give an in-class PowerPoint presentation. They should interpret the literary text assigned for the day based on textual evidence while relating their reading to theoretical concepts and issues that have been discussed in the course to that point. It must have a clear thesis, two or three pieces of textual evidence to support it, and a compelling conclusion. The presentation should be 10-15 minutes long, and it will be followed by a Q & A session. Please keep in mind that this assignment will be evaluated squarely based on the content of your presentation. While preparing your presentation, ask yourself: How original and convincing is my thesis? How thoughtfully do I support my thesis with textual evidence? Does each of my textual evidence make sense? Also, what might be the most efficient way to convince my classmates of my thesis? Please don't worry too much about making your presentation visually glamorous. And feel free to consult with the instructor during her office hours or via email. I'll be happy to give you feedback if you can send me your draft at least 24 hours before your presentation.

6. Final Papers (2000 words) (24 points)

Final papers are interpretive essays (12 fonts, 1 inch margins on top, bottom, left, and right, double-spaced). Each paper must have a title appropriate for the theme of the paper. A list of suggested topics will be provided, but students should feel free to explore other themes. Each paper needs a clearly defined thesis, textual evidence to support it, and a thoughtfully-developed structure. It also should include close analysis of at least three passages selected from the text (s) that it examines. The papers should follow Chicago Style formatting and need to be sent to the instructor via a *Turnitin* assignment. First drafts are due Saturday, 12/ 1, 10 pm, and final drafts due Saturday, December 15, 10 pm.

7. Mini-conference (5 points)

Students will present their drafts of final papers at the mini-conference scheduled for the last three sessions of the semester and receive feedback from their classmates as well as from the instructor. Each student is asked to prepare for a 10 minute-long presentation of their paper. We will work collaboratively so that it is very important to attend all three sessions whether you present or not.

Course Policies

Religious observance: This course follows BU’s policy on religious observance, available at <http://www.bu.edu/ctl/university-policies/policy-on-religious-observance/>

Use of Cell Phone and Electronic Device: Turn off any devices that might beep. Use of computers in class should be limited to note taking (i.e. no web-browsing or email checking). Each violation of this policy will lower your final grade by a full letter (B- to C-, for instance).

Pass/Fail: To encourage intellectual exploration, you may choose to take a course P/F as long as you do not plan to count it for a major, minor, writing, language, or general education requirement. In keeping with the intended use of Pass/Fail to encourage intellectual exploration, students elect Pass/Fail near the end of the course, rather than at the beginning. The deadline for a student to designate a course Pass/Fail is the course’s drop with a “W” grade date. For details on this option, see <https://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/policy-on-passfail-courses-for-undergraduate-students/>

Academic conduct code: Boston University’s Academic Conduct Code is designed to assist in the development of a supportive and productive learning environment. It is both a description of the University’s ethical expectations of students as well as a guarantee of students’ rights and responsibilities as members of a learning community. The Code provides clarity related to policy and procedure regarding academic conduct. <https://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>

* The schedule and other elements in the syllabus may be changed at the instructor’s discretion. In such cases announcements will be made in class as well as via blackboard.

Grading Scale:

A: 94-100	A-: 90-93.99	B+: 87-89.99	B: 84-86.99	B-: 80-83.99
C+: 77-79.99	C: 74-76.99	C-: 70-73.99	D: 60-69.99	F: 0-59.99

Required Texts

The following books are available for purchase at Barnes and Noble.

Ann Sung-hi Lee, *Mujong: Yi Kwang-su and Modern Korean Literature*, (U of HI Pr), ISBN 9781885445278
 Sunyoung Park, ed. And trans. *On the Eve of the Uprising*, (U of HI Pr), ISBN 9781933947198
Unyong-Jon: A Love Affair at the Royal Palace of Choson Korea, ISBN: 978-1557290939
Kang Kyōngae, From Wonso Pond: A Korean Story, ISBN: 978-1558616011

Other readings for this course are uploaded to the Course Materials folder in BU Learn. It is students’ responsibility to locate the weekly readings and read them before class. Always bring hard-copies of assigned texts to class.

Weekly Schedule

	Themes	Readings	Presentations Papers & Exams	Reading responses
Tues. 9/4	Introduction: Love, marriage, and family	Clips from “Mother and a Guest” (Sarangbang sonnim kwa ömöni, 1961, dir. Shin Sangok), https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_bWx5n0n8Y&t=1s		
Thurs. 9/6		Chu Yosöp, “Mama and the Boarder” (Sarang sonnim kwa ömöni, 1935), trans. Chong-un Kim and Bruce Fulton “Cho Sin’s Dream” (from <i>Memorabilia of the Three Kingdoms</i> (Sanguk yusa, circa 13 th century) Recommended: Anthony Giddens, <i>The Transformation of Intimacy: Sexuality, love, and eroticism in modern societies</i> . Introduction, chps.1, 2, and 3 (1-48)	Presentation Important historical dates assignments due, 9/9, 10 pm.	Wed. 7 pm
Tues. 9/11	Between Lovesickness and Chastity <1>	Kim Sisöp, “Student Yi Peers over the Wall,” (Isaeng kyujang chön, circa 15 th century), trans. Peter Lee Martina Deuchler, “Propagating Women’s Virtues in Chosön Korea” Recommended: “The Story of Ts’ui Ying-ying” trans. Stephen Owen (Chinese <i>chuanqi</i> (tales of the marvelous) from the Tang Dynasty)	Presentation	Mon. 7 pm
Thurs. 9/13	Between Lovesickness and Chastity <2>	Unyöng-Jön: A Love Affair at the Royal Palace of Choson Korea, trans. Kil Cha & Michael J. Pettid	Presentation	Wed. 7 pm
Tues. 9/18	Between Lovesickness and Chastity <3>	“The Song of a Faithful Wife, Ch’unhyang” (Ch’unhyan chön), trans. Richard Rutt Recommended: Jahyun Kim Haboush, “Versions and Subversions: Patriarchy and Polygamy in Korean Narratives,” in <i>Women and Confucian Cultures in Premodern China, Korea, and Japan</i>	Presentation	Mon. 7 pm
Thurs. 9/20	Modern Marriage, Colonial Family	Yi Injik, <i>Tears of Blood</i> (Hyöl üi nu, 1906), trans. E. Skillend Recommended: Yoon Sun Yang, <i>From Domestic Women to Sensitive Young Men</i> , 43-68	Presentation	Wed. 7 pm
Tues. 9/25	In Search of Modern Love <1>	Yi Kwangsu “Is this Love” (Aika, 1909), trans. Janet Poole (originally written in Japanese); what is Modern Literature? Yi Kwangsu, “What is Literature” (muhak iran hao, 1916), trans. Joo Yeon Rhee Haiyan Lee, <i>Revolution of the Heart</i> , pp. 25-56	Presentation	Mon. 7 pm
Thurs.	In Search of	Yi Kwangsu, <i>The Heartless</i> (Mujöng, 1917),		

9/27	Modern Love <2>	trans. Ann Sung-hi Lee		
Tues. 10/2		Yi Kwangsu, <i>The Heartless</i>		
Thurs. 10/4		Yi Kwangsu, <i>The Heartless</i>	Presentation (either individually or as a group, up to 2 students) Take-home midterm, 10/6, 10 pm	Wed. 7 pm
Tues. 10/9	NO CLASS: COLUMBUS DAY			
Thurs. 10/11	Colonialism, Family, and Selfhood <1>	Yŏm Sangsŏp, "On the Eve of the Uprising" (Mansejŏn, 1922, 1924), trans. Sunyoung Park Recommended: Sunyoung Park, <i>The Proletarian Wave</i> , 160-183	Presentation	Wed. 7 pm
Tues. 10/16	Colonialism, Family, and Selfhood <2>	Kim Tongin, "Potatoes" (Kamja, 1925), trans. Kevin O'Rourke; Kim Wŏnju, "Awakening" (Cha'gak, 1926), trans. Yung Hee Kim	Presentation	Mon. 7 pm
Thurs. 10/18	Working-class Love Story	Kang Kyŏngae, <i>From Wonso Pond</i> (Ingan munje, 1934), trans. Samuel Perry, excerpts from Alexandra Kollontai, <i>Red Love</i> (1927) https://www.marxists.org/archive/kollonta/red-love/index.htm		
Tues. 10/23		Kang Kyŏngae, <i>From Wonso Pond</i>		
Thurs. 10/25		Kang Kyŏngae, <i>From Wonso Pond</i> Recommended: Barraclough, <i>Factory Girl Literature</i> , 36-55	Presentation (either individually or as a group of two students)	Wed. 7 pm
Tues. 10/30	Grotesque family	Yi Sang, "Wings" (Nalgae, 1936), trans. Walter Lew and Youngju Ryu	Presentation	Mon. 7 pm
Thurs. 11/1	Interracial Family	Kim Saryang "Into the Light" (Hikari no naka ni, 1939), trans. Christopher D. Scott; Noguchi Kakuch'u "Foreign Husband" (izoku no otto, 1958), trans. Nayoung Aimee Kwon Nayoung Aimee Kwon, <i>Intimate Empire</i> , 59-79	Presentation	Wed. 7 pm
Tues. 11/6	Subaltern Family <1>	Hwang Sunwŏn, "Coarse Sand" (Wang morae, 1953), trans. Edward W. Poitras	Presentation	Mon. 7 pm
Thurs. 11/8	Subaltern Family <2>	Cho Sŏnjak "Young-ja's Heyday" (Yŏngja ũi chŏngsŏng sidae, 1973), trans. Chan Young Ki, & David R. Carter; clips from the 1975 film adaptation of the story available at the Korean Film Archive YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nN_pbS1FzSE	Presentation	Wed. 7 pm

		Jin-Kyung Lee, <i>Service Economies: Militarism, Sex Work, and Migrant Labor</i> , 55-60		
Tues. 11/13	Subaltern Family <3>	Cho Sehüi, “A Small Ball Launched by a Dwarf” (Nanjangi ka ssoaollin chagül kong, 1978), trans. Bruce and Ju-Chan Fulton Recommended: Youngju Ryu, <i>Writers of the Winter Republic</i> , 99-135	Presentation	Mon. 7 pm
Thurs. 11/15	the Korean War, Family, and Memory	Ch’oe Yun “Whisper yet” (Soksagim soksagim1993), trans. Bruce and Ju Chan Fulton	Presentation	Wed. 7 pm
Tues. 11/20		Writing Workshop		
Thurs. 11/22	Happy Thanksgiving!			
Tues. 11/27	North Korean Family	Ch’oe Ryön “Make the Ocean Blue” (Pada rül p’urüge hara, 2004), trans. Heinz Insu Fenkl Recommended: Immanuel Kim, <i>Rewriting Revolution: Women, Sexuality, and Memory</i> , introduction	Presentation	Mon. 7 pm
Thurs. 11/29	New Forms of Family	Kim Aeran, “Run, Dad” (Tallyöra abi, 2005), trans. Kevin O’Rourke	Presentation	Wed. 7 pm
Tues. 12/4		Mini-conference		
Thurs. 12/6		Mini-conference		
Tues. 12/11		Mini-conference		
			Final Drafts due, Sat. 12/15	