

Seminar on Korean Cinema

CTCS 403. Spring 2008. Tuesdays 2-4 Lucas 309

David E. James (School of Cinematic Arts, University of Southern California)

I. Aims of Course

This course revolves around two epicenters: the history of Korean cinema and the history of Korea, especially as it has been represented in cinema; by means of the one, we explore the other. To these ends, the course will examine films from the major phases of the cinemas of colonial Korea, and the (divided) South and North Korea: respectively, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

II. Schedule

15 January. Unit One: Korean Cinema Today I

Gwoemul (The Host) Bong Joon-ho, 2006, 119m. (KDVD 0892)

Read: Michael Robinson, "Contemporary Cultural Production in South Korea (NKC)
Lee Moon Haeng, "Emerging Korean Film Industry: A Study on strong Presence of Korean film in the Domestic Market" (www.cem.ulaval.ca/6thwmec/haeng_kwan.pdf)
Min et al. , "Hollywood Imagination" #1
Gary Indiana, "Gogol in Seoul" #2

19 January. Korean Cinema Today II. Blockbusters: Two Films by Kang Je-gyu

Swiri (Shiri) 1999, 125m. (KVHS 0167)

Taegukgi hwinalrimyeo (Tae Guk Gi: The Brotherhood of War) 2004, 140m. (KDVD 0475)

Read: Jeongsuk Joo, "From Periphery to Center: The Rise of the Korean Film Industry Since the Late 1990s and Ironies of Its Success"
(www.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies/nycas/2005%20GRAD%20Ryan%20Prize%20Jeongsuk%20Joo.pdf)
Kyung Hyun Kim, *Remasculinization*, pp. 259-276
Sung Kyun Kim, "Renaissance of Korean National Cinema"
<http://www.essex.ac.uk/Sociology/postgraduates/kim.pdf>

22 January. Unit Two. Earliest Korean Films: Representation of Pre-modern Korea

Chunhyang Im Kwon-taek, 2000, 120m. (KDVD 014)

Read: Bruce Cummings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, pp. 1-185
Higson, "The Concept of National Cinema" #3
Susan Haywood, "Defining the National" #4
"Recovering the Past: Rare Films Screened in Korea"
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/screeningthepast/ reruns/rr1298/CBrr5a.html>
Hyang-jin Lee, "Chunhyang: Marketing and Old Tradition . . ." (NKC)
Hyang-jin Lee, "The Creation of a National Identity . . ." (CKC)
Hyang-jin Lee, "Gender and Cinematic Adaptations of *Ch'unhyangjon*" (CKC)
Presentation: Kang Je-gyu

29 January. Unit Three. Resistance to Japanese Imperialism and the Korean War

Deul-gughwa-neun pi-eon-neunde (Wild Flower in the Battlefield) Lee Man-hee, 1974, 102m.

Also: *Jayu-manse (Hurrah! For Freedom)* Choi In-kyu, 1946, 60m
The Steel Helmet Samuel Fuller, 1951, 85m
Taebek sanmaek (Taebek Mountains) Im Kwon-taek, 1994, 168 m

Read: Bruce Cummings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, pp. 185- 236
Kyung Hyun Kim, *Remasculinization*, pp. 77-106
Chungmoo Choi, "Nationalism and Construction of Gender in Korea" #5

Presentation:

5 February. Unit Four. Aftermath of War

Obaltan (Aimless Bullet) Yoo Hyun-mok, 1960, 110m. (KDVD 0288)

Also: *Jiokhwa (A Flower in Hell)* Shin Sang-ok, 1958 (KVHS 0532)

Read: Bruce Cummings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, pp. 237- 298
Darcy Paquet, "Obaltan/Aimless Bullet" #6

Presentation:

12 February. Unit Five. Reconstruction: Sexual Trauma

Jayu buin (Madam Freedom) Han Hyung-Mo, 1956, 125m (KDVD 0288)

Also: *Hanyo (The Housemaid)* Kim Ki-young, 1960, 90m

Read: Bruce Cummings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, pp. 299- 336
Kyung Hyun Kim, *Remasculinization*, pp. 233-258
Kim So Young, "Questions of Women's Film" #7

Presentation:

19 February. Unit Six. North Korea

Flower Girl (KNVHS 0005)-- No Eng Subtitles

Also: *Sea of Blood* (KNVHS 0017)-- No Eng Subtitles
Crossing the Line (Daniel Gordon, 2006)

Read: Bruce Cummings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, pp. 394-434
Hyang-jin Lee, "Nationhood and the Cinematic Representation of History" (CKC)
Kyung Hyun Kim, "The Fractured Cinema of North Korea" #8
Johannes Schonherr, "Permanent State of War" #9
Kim Jong Il, *On the Art of Cinema* (selections)

Presentation:

26 February. Unit Seven. Park Chung-hee, Yusin Constitution, and after . . .

Ggotip (A Petal), Jang Sun-Woo, 1996, 89m. (KVHS 0098)

Also: *Bakha satang (Peppermint Candy)* Lee Chang-dong, 2000, 120m. (KDVD 0127)
Geuddae geusaramdeul (The President's Last Bang) Im Sang-soo, ??m. (KDVD 0703)

Read: Aaron Han Joon Magnan-Park, "Peppermint Candy: The Will Not To Forget" (NKC)
Eunjung Min, et al., "Korean National Cinema in the 1980s" #10

Presentation:

4 March. Unit Eight. For a Korean National Cinema: Im Kwon-Taek

Sopyonje 1993, 112 m. (KDVD 0026)

Also: *Aje Aje Para Aje (Come, Come Come Upwards)* 1989, 134m. (KDVD 0046)
Read: James and Kim, eds., *Im Kwon-Taek*, pp. 107-82
David E. James: "Im Kwon-Taek: Korean National Cinema and Buddhism."
Kyung Hyun Kim, *Remasculinization*, pp. 52-76
Presentation:

11 March. Unit Nine. New Korean Cinema: Lee Jang-ho
guest: Ms. Nam Lee
Babo Seoneon (Declaration of Fools) 1983, 97m. (KVHS 0069)
Also: *Balambuleo joheun nal (A Fine Windy Day)* 1980, 113m. (KDVD 0070)
Read: Bruce Cummings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, pp. 337-393
Kyung Hyun Kim, *Remasculinization*, pp. 31-52
Presentation:

18 March: Spring Break

25 March. Midterm Exam

1 April. Unit Ten. New Korean Cinema: Park Kwang-su
Geu seome gago shibda (To the Starry Island) 1993, 102 m. (KVHS 0087)
Also: *Areumdaun Chongnyun Jeon Tae-il (A Single Spark)* Park Kwang-su, 1995. (KDVD 0155)
Read: Hyang-jin Lee, "Class and Cultural Identities in Contemporary Korea (CKC)"
Kyung Hyun Kim, *Remasculinization*, pp. 107-162
Hagen Koo, "The State, Minjung, and the Working Class in South Korea" (optional)
Presentation:

8 April. Unit Eleven. Documentary
Songhwan (Repatriation) Kim Dong-won 2003, 149m. (KDVD 0568)
Also: *Na-jeun Mogsori (The Murmuring)* Byun Young-joo, 1995, 99m (KVHS D0734)
Read: Bruce Cummings, *Korea's Place in the Sun*, pp. 434-497
Nam In-Young, "Fifteen Years of Committed Documentaries" #11
Nam Lee, "Repatriation and History of Korean Documentary" #12
Presentation:

15 April. Unit Twelve.
Art Film: Hong Sangsoo
Oh! Soo-jung (Virgin Stripped Bare . . .) Hong Sangsoo, 2000, 126m. (KDVD 0244)
Also: *Kangwon-do ui him (Power of Kangwon Province)* Hong Sangsoo, 1998, 110m. (KDVD 0125)
Read: Kyung Hyun Kim, *Remasculinization*, pp. 203-233
James Quandt, "Twice-Told Tales" #13
Akira Mizuta Lippit, "Hong Sang Soo" #14
Presentation:

(21 April. *Chihwaseon*. Im Kwon-Taek, 2002, 120 m Norris, 2 pm)

22 April. Unit Thirteen. Korea Wired
guest: Ms. Hye-Ryoung Ok.
Goyangileul butaghae (Take Care of My Cat) Jeong Jae-eun, 2001, 112m. (KDVD 0295)
Read J.C. Herz, "The Gaming Capital of the World" #15

Doobo Shim, "Globalization and Cinema Regionalization in East Asia" #16
Chi-Yun Shin, "Two of a Kind" (NKC)
Paul Wiseman, "Korea's Romantic Hero Holds Japan in Thrall" #17

Presentation:

29 April. Unit Fourteen. *Hanryu*

Janghwa, Hongryeon (A Tale of Two Sisters) Kim Ji-Woon, 2003, 115 m. (KDVD 0400)

Also: *Oechul* (April Snow) Hur Jin-ho. 2005. (w. Bae Yong-joon) (KDVD 0721)

Read: Jeeyoung Shin, "Globalisation and New Korean Cinema" in NKC

Presentation:

III. Requirements Provisional

1. Regular attendance at and creative participation in seminar (10 %). Absences are only excused with documented medical or family emergency. Missing classes more than three times will mean failing the course.
2. One short Presentation (15 min): must include reference to at least one critic.
3. Short paper (750 words): must include reference to at least one critic. (25%). Due one week after presentation.
4. Midterm Exam
5. Term Paper: due 29 April

N.B. For the return of final papers, students from outside Critical Studies should leave me a return-addressed envelope.

N.B. Papers are allowed to be 48 hours late for loss of 1 grade point; after 48 hours papers will not be accepted and will be graded F.

IV. Bibliography

Required Texts

Course Reader (CR): available at the Magic Machine (213 744 1511)

Cummings, Bruce. *Korea's Place in the Sun: A Modern History*. New York: Norton, 1997.

Kyung Hyun Kim, *The Remasculinization of Korean Cinema*. Durham: Duke University P, 2004.

Recommended Texts

James, David E. and Kyung Hyun Kim, *Im Kwon-Taek: The Making Of a Korean National Cinema*. Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 2002

Lee Hyangjin. *Contemporary Korean Cinema: Identity, Culture, Politics*. Manchester and New York: Manchester University Press, 2000. (CKC)

Shin Chi-Yun and Stringer, J. eds., *New Korean Cinema*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh Press, 2005. (NKC)

Additional Bibliography

<http://www.koreanfilm.or.kr/>

-- web-site for KOFIC (Korean Film Council). > "Publications" > "Korean Film History" for PDF files on all eras of Korean Film History from *Korean Cinema: From Origins to Renaissance*.

Abelmann, Nancy and Kathleen McHugh, eds. *South Korean Golden Age Melodrama: Gender, Genre, and National Cinema*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2005.

Bowyer, Justin. *The Cinema of Japan and Korea*. London: Wallflower Press, 2004.

Hjort, Mette. *Cinema and Nation*. New York: Routledge, 2000.

Kim, Elaine H. and Chungmoo Choi, eds., *Dangerous Women: Gender and Korean Nationalism*. Routledge: New York and London, 1998.

Kim, Jong-il. *On the Art of the Cinema, April 11, 1973*. Pyongyang: Foreign Languages Publ House, 1989.
Leong, Anthony. *Korean Cinema: The New Hong Kong*. London: Trafford Publishing, 2006
Min, Eungjun. *Korean Film: History, Resistance and Democratic Imagination*. London: Praeger, 2003.
Park, Seung Hyun. "The Memory of Labor Oppression in Korean Cinema: The Death of a Young Worker in *Single Spark* (1995)," *Asian Cinema*, 11, 2 (Fall Winter 2000), pp. 10-23.
Rayns, Tony, ed., *Seoul Stirring: 5 Korean Directors*. London: ICA, 1994.
Said, Edward W. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage, 1978.
Wells, Kenneth M. ed., *South Korea's Minjung Movement: The Culture and Politics of Dissidence*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1995.
Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities*. New York: Verso, 1983.

Some North Korean Films

Pi mudun yakpae (Blood-stained Woodblock) Phyo Kwang. KNDVD 0132
Io kanun chamdoen sam (Genuine Life Goes On) Kang Jung Mo. KNDVD 0133
Uriui saengmyong (Our Lifeline) Kim Yu Sam. KNDVD 0134
Uri ui hyanggi (Our Fragrance) Jon Jong Phal. KNDVD 0135

Places where you can find Korean films:

East Asian Library at USC
Cinema-TV Library at USC
Cinefile in Santa Monica (310-312-8836)
Rocket Video in Mid-town LA (323-965-1100)
Video stores in Korea Town
Netflix

Student with Disabilities: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure that the letter is delivered to the Professor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 am-5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213)740-0776.

Academic Plagiarism: The School of Cinema-Television expects the highest standards of academic excellence and ethical performance from students. It is particularly important that you are aware of and avoid plagiarism, cheating on exam, submitting a paper to more than one instructor, or submitting a paper authored by anyone other than yourself. Violations of this policy will result in a failing grade and be reported to the Office of student Judicial Affairs. If you have any doubts or questions about these policies, consult "SCAMPUS" and/or confer with the professor.

Academic Integrity: A Guide for Graduate Students is available on the Student Judicial Affairs Web site (<http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS>). This publication was developed in cooperation with The Graduate School and is intended to provide new students with both a rationale and specific guidelines for academic integrity in graduate study.