

## NARRATIVES OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY KOREA

Tue/Thu 9:30-10:45

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**Description**

This survey course of modern and contemporary narratives of Korea focuses on literary texts to gain insight into how the experience of being Korean was narrated and mediated in different periods of Korea's modern history. Historically, the class will cover the colonial period, war and liberation, industrialization and urbanization, and the new millennium. We will engage in questions such as:

- What is "modern" literature, and how might have "modernity" been experienced at the turn of the century?
- What does it mean for a colonial subject to be writing fiction under conditions of censorship, and how are we to understand the rich production of textual and visual narratives during the colonial period?
- What were some of the ways in which Korea experienced liberation and urbanization, and how does literature complicate our understanding of "progress"?
- What has been the particularly gendered experience of Koreans in the new millennium, and how does language and culture continue to evolve under the rapidly transforming and changes in media?

The students' understanding of these issues will be enriched by assigned readings from other disciplines in order to broaden the terms of our engagement with the primary texts and in order to consider the broad context of modern Korean religions, colonial and post-colonial history, and contemporary Korean culture and politics. Please note:

- There is no Korean language requirement for the class.
- The class can be taken as WIM or non-WIM.

**Learning Goals—WIM**

Writing in the Major courses provide students with focused opportunities to develop writing skills in the context of their chosen fields, helping them explore the process of writing effectively in discipline-specific formats and styles.

This course satisfies your writing-in-the-major (WIM) requirement, a university-wide requirement for all undergraduates. WIM courses are meant to provide you with systematic opportunities to develop writing skills in the context of your chosen field. WIM courses will:

1. Require a substantial amount of writing at regular intervals throughout the quarter, through both short papers and a larger project developed in stages;
2. Promote and support practice of critical reading of writing in the discipline (chosen from journals in the field)
3. Emphasize the process of re-writing, with individualized feedback from the instructor and your peers
4. Integrate explicit discussion of effective communication throughout the course, culminating in a presentation.

The primary outcome from this course will be a 15-page analytical composed of two sections that synthesize feedback given throughout the term, and which will provide each student the opportunity to address the breath of acquired knowledge throughout the quarter. (For example, the students will consider a theoretical question (e.g. the formation of subjectivity under censorship) in Korea's colonial and post-colonial contexts.)

**Writing Resources:**

The Hume Writing Center provides assistance with all types of writing for Stanford students, including drop-in consulting appointments. You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this resource, especially for your final project; you can make an appointment to meet with a consultant through the homepage at [http://www.stanford.edu/dept/undergrad/cgi-bin/drupal\\_pwr/hwc](http://www.stanford.edu/dept/undergrad/cgi-bin/drupal_pwr/hwc) or access the schedule for drop-in consultants at [http://www.stanford.edu/dept/undergrad/cgi-bin/drupal\\_pwr/hwc\\_dropintutors](http://www.stanford.edu/dept/undergrad/cgi-bin/drupal_pwr/hwc_dropintutors).

**The Honor Code**

Stanford students are expected to abide by the Student Honor Code; please refer to the website for any questions:  
<http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/judicialaffairs/policy/honor-code>.

**Students with Documented Disabilities**

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). Professional staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the OAE as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066, URL: <http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/oae>).

**Assignments, Evaluations, and Grading**

1. Attendance and participation (10%): attendance at all seminars is crucial, as well as active participation in the class discussions and debates.
2. Critical Reading Responses (10%). Each week you will be expected to write a 500-word essay (roughly one page) on the reading assignments due the following weeks. The essays will be prompted by questions uploaded to Coursework. **Essays are due on Wednesday night by 10 pm**, and the responses will be discussed in class. Occasionally, the instructor will print the responses and bring them to class for peer discussion.
3. Critical Article Quiz (10%). Five Critical readings will be assigned on five of the ten weeks, and \*short\* quizzes will be administered requiring the students to reflect on the writer's argument (questions will be assigned in advance). These responses will be shared among the classmates.

3. Two analytic short papers (6-8 pages): 40%. These essays, which will build on class discussions, will be assigned in weeks 3 and 8, will be returned in weeks 4 and 9, and will be resubmitted by the students taking feedback into consideration in weeks 5 and 10.

\*Non-WIM students will submit only in weeks 5 and 10

4. Presentations: 30%, approx. 15 minutes: Pick an author from those to be discussed in week 8-10. Read two works other than those read in class, and prepare a presentation on the author. Be prepared to give a short biographical sketch (no more than 2 minutes), and spend the rest of the class time discussing question of the author's style: what kind of characters does this author create? What larger questions does the author pose in his/her work? How do these questions pertain to the historical/social circumstances of the author's lifetime, if at all? Prepare questions for class discussion. **\*\* Submit the presentation (ppt/keynote) files and bibliography.**

### REQUIRED TEXTS

- 1) *Yi Kwang-su and Modern Korean Literature: Mujong* (bookstore)
- 2) Kim and Fulton. *A Ready-Made Life: Early Masters of Modern Korean Fiction* ("RL": online access through library)
- 3) *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Korean Poetry* (online access through library)
- 4) *Azaleas, a Book of Poems* (online access through library)
- 5) Selections from *Azalea* (online/on reserve), v. 1-6
- 6) *The Red Room: Stories of Trauma in Contemporary Korea* (online access through library)
- 7) *From Wonso Pond* (bookstore)
- 8) *Eastern Sentiments* (bookstore)
- 9) Online readings posted on Coursework

### WEEKLY READINGS

**Week 1:** Introduction: Ch'oe Namson, Yi Kwang-su, Yi Injik: **Questions due by Thursday morning!**

"North and South Korea" (Ross King 2007) 200-top of 209 (online access)  
*Mujong* (selection) and *Tears of Blood* (selection)

\*WIM/non-WIM reading: "The Origins of Modern Literature" by Michael Shin (available online in *Colonial Modernity in Korea*)—**first quiz next class!**

**Week 2: QUIZ**, and 1920s magazine culture: Kim Tong-in, Hyŏn Chin-gŏn:

Kim Tong-in "The Photograph and the Letter" (RL)

Kim Tong-in "Potatoes": *Modern Korean Fiction: An Anthology* (on reserve)

Hyŏn Chin-gŏn "A Society that Drives you to Drink" (RL)

Hyŏn Chin-gŏn "A Lucky Day": *Modern Korean Fiction: An Anthology* (on reserve)

Yŏm Sangsŏp: "The Rotary Press" (RL)

\*WIM/non-WIM reading: "The Colonial Origin of Korean Realism and its Contemporary Manifestation." *positions* 14.1, 165-192.

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### **Week 3 – First Take-home essay for WIM students, essay due Friday**

**QUIZ** and Experimenting with language: Kim Sowŏl, Yi Sang, Pak T'aewŏn:

Kim Sowŏl: *Azaleas, a Book of Poems*: Introduction (1-11), "For My Love" (14-24),

"Azaleas" (143-153) – online; and read: <http://hompi.sogang.ac.kr/anthony/Azaleas.htm>

Pak T'aewŏn, "Barbershop Boy" (RL)

Yi Sang: "Wings", *Modern Korean Fiction: An Anthology* (on reserve)

Yi Sang poetry: online

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### **Week 4—WIM students' essays returned with feedback**

Time, Space and Tradition in Colonial Korea —Kim Tong-ni, Yi T'aejun, Yi Hyosŏk:

*Eastern Sentiments*, available at bookstore

Kim Tong-ni, "The Shaman Painting"

Yi Hyosŏk, "Where the Buckwheat Blooms" (RL)

\*WIM/non-WIM reading: intro to *From Wonso Pond*

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### **Week 5— QUIZ, non-WIM and revised-WIM papers due Friday**

Proletarian Literature—Yi Kiyŏng, Im Hwa, Yŏm Sangsŏp, Kang Kyŏngae:

Yi Kiyŏng, "A Tale of Rats" (RL)

Im Hwa, Paek Sok poetry, *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Korean Poetry* (online)

Kang Kyŏngae, *From Wonso Pond*, available at bookstore or on reserve

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### **Week 6**

Writing in times of crisis in Late Colonial Korea: Yun Tongju, Yi Sanghwa and Ch'ae Mansik:

The Poetry of Yun Tongju, Yi Sanghwa in *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Korean Poetry* (online)

Ch'ae Mansik "My Innocent Uncle" *Modern Korean Fiction: An Anthology*,

Displacement of Language and Place—Hwang Sŏk-Yŏng, Hwang Sunwŏn

Hwang Sŏk-Yŏng "The Road to Samp'o" online

Hwang Sunwŏn, "Cranes" *Azalea* (online)

\*WIM/non-WIM reading: "Assimilation's Racializing Sensibilities: Colonized Koreans as Yobos and the Yobo-ization of Expatriate Japanese." *positions* (2013) 21(1): 11-49.

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### **Week 7**

**QUIZ** and Displacement of Language and Place—Kim Sungok, Yi Yangji

Kim Sungok: "Mujin Kihaeng"

Yi Yangji: "Koku"

Korean Liberation and Trauma of War

Pak Wansŏ "In the Realm of the Buddha" (*The Red Room*, online)

O Chŏnghŭi “Spirit of the Wind” (*The Red Room*)

\*WIM/non-WIM reading: <http://japanfocus.org/-Tessa-Morris-Suzuki/3193>

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**Week 8 : Presentations / WIM Second Take-home essay due Friday**

**QUIZ** and Contemporary fiction by women

Choi Yun, “Hanak’o”—on reserve in library –

Han Kang, “The Vegetarian” (Azalea Volume Three, online access)

Ha Sŏngnan “Blooms of Mold”

Ŭn Hŭigyŏng, “Inheritance” (online)

Chŏn Unyŏng, “Needle” *Azalea* Volume Two

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**Week 9: Presentations / WIM students’ essays returned with feedback**

Contemporary fiction by women

Kim Aeran, “Run Dad” (Azalea Volume One, online access)

Pyŏn Hyeyŏng “First Anniversary” (Azalea Volume Three, online access)

TBA

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**Week 10 – Presentations / non-WIM and revised-WIM papers due Friday**

Technology and Language in Contemporary Society

Kim Yongha, *Ice Cream*

Yun Koun “The Chef’s Nail” (<http://wordswithoutborders.org/article/the-chefs-nail>)

Kim Chunghyuk “Inuk the Inventor” (Azalea Volume One, online access)

Pak Mingyu “Giraffe”

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