

**Korean 7B: Introduction to Modern Korean Literature and Culture**  
**Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, UC Berkeley**  
**Spring 2018**

Lecture: MWF 1-2 pm, at 219 Dwinelle  
Sections: Mon 2-3 pm, at 35 Evans  
Mon 3-4 pm, at 72 Evans  
Tues 2-3 pm at 55 Evans

Instructor: Jinsoo An  
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Office Hours: Friday 2-4 pm at 284 Dwinelle

**Course Description:**

This course offers a survey of 20th century Korean literature, with emphasis on short fictions. We approach short fictions as the repository of ideas, discourses and formal experiments on the complex, discontinuous and contradictory development called modernity. It traces the beginning of Korea's modern literature at the beginning of the 20th century and chronologically examines the canonical works from the colonial era. The liberation of 1945 and the ensuing era of the Cold War ushered in new themes, preoccupations and narrative features into Korean literature. We bring attention to the ways in which literary texts have engaged with the complex forces and repercussions that shaped Korea's modern experiences. How literary texts have historically thematized and problematized the lingering issues of social transformation and cultural identity is of primary concern. The course includes a number of film screenings. No prerequisites required. All readings are in English translation.

**Components of Course Grade:**

1. Attendance & Participation:	10%
2. Weekly Review on bCourses:	10%
3. Midterm Exam:	20%
4. Midterm Paper:	30%
5. Final Paper:	30%

1. Attendance and Participation (10%): Attendance of both lecture and section meetings is required. Classroom civility is also expected. You are expected to be on time. Class starts promptly at 1:10 pm and ends at 2:00 pm. Packing up things early is disruptive to both the instructor and to other students. Classroom participation is a part of your overall grade. Attend class with knowledge of study materials of the day and formulate questions and comments for readings. Classroom discussion should be civilized and respectful of others. Electronic devices (notebook pc, tablet pc, mobile phones) must be turned off during class.
2. Weekly Reviews on bCourses (10%): Weekly Review assignments are designed to facilitate discussions among students. You are expected to formulate a number of discussion questions based on the assigned fictions of the week, and to post them on the "Discussions" page on bCourses. There will be a new Discussion post each week where you can respond

with your questions. For those who have not formulated one's own questions, read and answer several questions offered by others. To receive credit for each weekly review, you must submit your questions and/or responses by 10 pm Friday each week.

3. Midterm Exam (20%): March 16th
4. Midterm Paper (30%): 5-6 pages, double-spaced, due on March 5th
5. Final Paper (30%): 7-10 pages, double-spaced, due on April 27th

#### Required Texts:

- 1 Bruce Fulton and Youngmin Kwon (ed.), *Modern Korean Fiction: An Anthology* (MKF)
- 2 Additional readings on the "Files" menu of bCourses: (the readings for the first two weeks will be available on bCourses.)

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### COURSE SCHEDULE

#### I. NATIONALISM AND NATIONAL LITERATURE

Week 1: Jan. 17 & 19

- Syllabus, Logistics and Introduction
- Bruce Fulton, Youngmin Kwon, "Introduction," MKF, bCourses
- (No discussion section scheduled for the 1st week)

Week 2: Jan. 22, 24, 26

- Benedict Anderson: "Introduction," *Imagined Communities*, bCourses
- "Yi Kwangsu" introduction and translation by Ellie Choi, bCourses
- Hyŏn Chingŏn, "A Lucky Day" (1924), MKF, bCourses
- Yŏm Sangsŏp, "The Rotary Press" (1925), bCourses

#### II. COLONIAL MODERNITY

Week 3: Jan 29, 31, Feb 2

- Kim Tongin, "Potatoes" (1925) MKF
- Yi Kiyŏng, "Rat Fire" (1933), bCourses, recommended
- Kim Tongin, "The Photograph and the Letter" (1934), bCourses
- Boduerae Kwon, "The World in a Love Letter," bCourses, recommended
- Slavoj Žižek: "From *Che vuoi?* to Fantasy: Lacan with Eyes Wide Shut" from *How to Read Lacan*, also available on <http://www.lacan.com/essays/?p=146>, bCourses

Week 4: Feb. 5, 7, 9

- Yi T'aejun, "An Idiot's Delight" (1933), bCourses; "Crows" (1936) MKF;
- Janet Poole, "Introduction" and selections from *Eastern Sentiments* (1930s), bCourses

Week 5: Feb. 12, 14, 16

- Kim Tongni, "The Shaman Painting" (1936), MKF
- "Kim Tongni" introduction and translation by Chiyoung Kim, bCourses, recommended
- Chu Yosöp, "Mama and the Boarder" (1935), bCourses
- **Film: "Mama and the Boarder" (Shin Sangok, 1961) 101 min: at 6 pm on Feb 12**

Week 6: Feb. 19, 21, 23

- ⇒ **No Class on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>: Academic Holiday**
- Kim Yujöng, "The White Rabbit" (1936), MKF
- Yi Sang, "Wings" (1936), MKF

Week 7: Feb 26, 28, Mar 2

- Yi Hyosök, "When the Buckwheat Blooms" (1936), MKF
- Ch'ae Manshik, "My Innocent Uncle" (1938), MKF; "A Ready-Made Life" (1934), bCourses

Week 8: March 5, 7, 9

- ⇒ **Midterm Paper Due on March 5th (Monday)**
- Pak T'aewon, "The Barbershop Boy" (1936), bCourses
- Film: "Angels on the Streets" (Ch'oe In'gyu, 1941, 73 min.) in-class screening
- Kelly Jeong, "Enlightening the Other," bCourses

### III. LIBERATION, WAR AND TRAUMA

Week 9: March 12, 14, 16

- Ch'ae Manshik, "Constable Maeng" (1946), bCourses
- Ch'oe Chönghui, "The Ritual at the Well" (1948), MKF
- Yi T'aejun "Before and After Liberation" (1946), bCourses
- ⇒ **Midterm Exam on March 16<sup>th</sup> (Friday)**

Week 10: March 19, 21, 23

- ⇒ **No Class on March 23rd: due to conference attendance**
- Hwang Sunwön, "Coarse Sand" (1953) MKF; "Cranes" (1953), bCourses
- Yi Hochöl, "Far from Home" (1955) MKF
- David R. McCann, "On Cranes," bCourses
- Cathy Caruth, "Introduction" (2), bCourses

Week 11: March 26, 28, 30

- ⇒ **Spring Recess**

Week 12: April 2, 4, 6

- Chön Kwangyong, "Kapitan Ri" (1962), bCourses
- Kim Süngok, "Seoul: 1964, Winter" (1965) MKF
- Ch'oe Inho, "Another Man's Room" (1971) MKF

#### IV. COMPRESSED DEVELOPMENT AND ITS DISCONTENTS

Week 13: April 9, 11, 13

- Kim Pukhyang, "The Son" (1971) MKF
- Marshall R. Pihl, "Engineers of the Human Soul," bCourses, recommended
- Cho Sehüi, "Knifeblade" (1975) MKF
- Ch'oe Illam, "Ballad" (1976) MKF

Week 14: April 16, 18, 20

- Yi Ch'öngjun, "Footprints in the Snow" (1977) MKF
- Pak Wansö, "Mother's Hitching Post" (1980) MKF
- Cho Chöngnae, "Land of Exile" (1981), bCourses
- Paik Nak-chung, "The Idea of a Korean National Literature, Then and Now," bCourses, recommended

Week 15: April 23, 25, 27

- O Chönghüi, "Wayfarer" (1983) MKF, "The Bronze Mirror" (1982), bCourses
  - Ch'oe Yun, "The Gray Snowman" (1992) MKF
  - Kim Yönggha, "Lizard" (1997) MKF
  - Jongyon Hwang, "A Postnational Turn in Contemporary Korean Literature," bCourses, recommended
- ⇒ **Final Paper Due by 3 pm on April 27th (Monday)**

Week 16: RRR Week

Week 17: Finals Week