

East Asian Literature and Culture in Translation

Section 1

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【Course Outline / Description】

This course examines literary texts and various forms of cultures from different countries of East Asian region (Japan, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, etc.). The range of the texts in this course includes short-stories, films, TV commercials (and more!), and we will discuss these cultural productions vis-a-vis the intensive process of globalization in this region (roughly the early 1990s and onwards) as well as in the context of rapidly growing inter-Asian cultural flows we are facing now. Also, moving beyond the selected texts as part of the literary/art genre, we will envision how these cultural productions are inseparable from our living surroundings, and how, these texts shape social memories, traditional Asian values, gender roles, nationalisms, and historical traumas.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

This course aims to approach various examples of literature and cultures from different Asian societies in the larger context of (East)Asia, past and present. The students are expected to understand the complex, intricate layers of different East Asian cultures and societies through literature and cultural productions. We also aim to discuss the issues of translating literature in the context of global cultural economy and its relations to the issues of national development and identity.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

(Note: Some of the contents and the schedule are subject to change)

Week 1

Introduction: Explain syllabus, plans for the semester, etc.

Shin, Kyoung-suk, “Where the Organ Once Stood”

Week 2 Writing Woman in East Asia

Shin, Kyoung-suk, “Where the Organ Once Stood”

Week 3 Writing Woman in East Asia

Yoshimoto Banana, *Kitchen*

Week 4: Writing Woman in East Asia

Yoshimoto Banana, *Kitchen*

Week 5: Nostalgia and Romance in Japan

Iwai Shunji, *Love Letter* (film)

Week 6: Nostalgia and Romance in Japan

Iwai Shunji, *Love Letter* (film)

Week 7: Lost in Translation

Sofia Coppola, *Lost in Translation*

Week 8: Lost in Translation

Sofia Coppola, *Lost in Translation*

Week 9: Workings of memory, trauma, and history

Zhang Yimou, *To Live*

Week 10: Workings of memory, trauma, and history

Zhang Yimou, *To Live*

Week 11: Workings of memory, trauma, and history

Zhang Yimou, *To Live*

Week 12: Workings of memory, trauma, and history

Peter Chan, *Comrades, Almost a Love Story*

Week 13: Workings of memory, trauma, and history

Peter Chan, *Comrades, Almost a Love Story*

Week 14: Workings of memory, trauma, and history

Im, Kwon-taek, *Sopyonje*

Week 15: Workings of memory, trauma, and history

Im, Kwon-taek, *Sopyonje*

Wrap-up, presentation, Final exam prep

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

*Shin, Kyoung-suk, “Where the Organ Once Stood”

*Yoshimoto Banana, *Kitchen* 吉本バナナ、<キッチン>

*Iwai Shunji, *Love Letter* (film) 岩井俊二、<ラブレター>

*Various Handouts

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

1. Weekly short-response papers/Group work, etc.: 40%

*Weekly Short Response Papers with comments and/or questions about the readings/texts: Students are required to submit minimum of 7 short response papers evenly throughout the semester. Length: **maximum of 250 words (please type and submit hard-copy)**. These are “informal” papers aimed to show how actively you have done the readings. You are free to write either/or short responses, confusions, questions that arose while you were doing the class readings (or after watching the films). **You CANNOT submit these 7 short-response papers in lump-sum at the end of the term. You CANNOT submit multiple number of papers (like 3-4 papers) at a single-time** (i.e. The purpose of these response papers is to assist in the class discussion at a time when it happens. So old responses will not help at all).

2. Writing Assignment: 30% (Prompt will be distributed ahead of time)

3. Final Exam: 30%

Section 5

【Additional Information】

How to make this course productive

- 1) All readings will be available on Blackboard. Students are required to download, read, and digest the assigned readings before coming to class
- 2) Active class participation is mandatory. Your expressive, energetic communication skills and preparations for in-class discussions will be expected
- 3) You won't be able to make up for any in-class writing activities, tests, etc. you have missed caused by your absence