

## Urban Culture Asia

### Asian Popular Culture

#### Section 1

Instructor/Title	Hyunjung Lee/Professor
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#### 【Course Outline / Description】

This course seeks ways to explicate variable, contested, and multi-layered features of urban cultures in Asian societies. The question of urban Asia, or "Asian modernity" acquires new significance at the current moment, as the impact of globalization and advancement of digital technology have created a thriving East Asian cultural market and active exchanges of pan-Asian popular cultures among different Asian locations. Looking into various forms of urban culture in contemporary Asian societies, students will be engaged in critical discussions about how people experience patterns of national and cultural expressions that are not readily reduced to fixed, static, narrative descriptions.

#### Section 2

#### 【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

After their successful completion of this course, students will be well-equipped to pursue advanced studies in cultural studies and will appreciate how different versions of cultural productions themselves are very much part of greater social discourses.

#### Section 3

#### 【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

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

Week 1: Intro/The Lure of the Modern: the modern Shanghai and the urban culture, from the 1940s to present

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

Watch Ang Lee (dir.) *Lust, Caution* (色,戒) (2007) via link on Blackboard

Week 2: The Lure of the Modern: the modern Shanghai and the urban culture, from the 1940s to present

Ang Lee, *Lust, Caution*, Eileen Chang, *Lust, Caution*

Eileen Chang, *Lust, Caution*

Week 3: The Lure of the Modern: the modern Seoul and the urban culture, from the 1940s to present

Hong Kal, "Seoul and the Time in motion: urban form and political consciousness" (photographs, ads, etc. to be shown in-class)

Jung Ji-woo (dir.) *Modern Boy* (2008)

Week 4: The Lure of the Modern/ Delineating the urban landscape in Asia

Jung Ji-woo (dir.) *Modern Boy* (2008)

Week 5: Continuation and disjuncture, Old and the New  
Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Host* (2006)

Week 6: Continuation and disjuncture, Old and the New  
Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Host* (2006)

Week 7: Continuation and disjuncture, Old and the New  
Park Chan-wook (dir.) *Old Boy* (2003)

Week 8: Tokyo in Motion

Yoshimoto Banana, “Newly Wed” 吉本バナナ、＜新婚さん＞  
Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Snowpiercer* (2013)

Week 9: Tokyo in Motion

Bong Jun-ho (dir.) *Snowpiercer* (2013)

Week 10: Tokyo in Motion

*Tokyo!* (Film trilogy by 3 directors)

Week 11: Tokyo in Motion

*Tokyo!* (Film trilogy by 3 directors)

Week 12: Food and the Asian Urban

Joji Matsuoka (dir.) *Shinya Shokudo* [Midnight Diner] (2014)

Week 13: Food and the Asian Urban

Joji Matsuoka (dir.) *Shinya Shokudo* [Midnight Diner] (2014)

Week 14: Multicultural Asia (?)

Shin Dong-il (dir.), *Bandhobi* (2009)

Week 15: Multicultural Asia (?)

Shin Dong-il (dir.), *Bandhobi* (2009)

**【Textbooks/Reading Materials】**

\*Ang Lee (dir.) *Lust, Caution* (色,戒) (2007)

\*Eileen Chang, *Lust, Caution*

\*Hong Kal, “Seoul and the Time in motion: urban form and political consciousness”

\*Park Chan-wook (dir.) *Old Boy* (2003)

\*Yoshimoto Banana, “Newly Wed” 吉本バナナ、＜新婚さん＞

## Section 4

### 【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

1. Class Participation (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 use and submit 9 (minimum) short response papers evenly throughout the semester. Length: maximum of 250 words (either typed or handwritten). 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 short-responses (9 or more) in lump-sum at the end of the term. You CANNOT submit multiple number of papers (like 3-4) 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】

1) All readings will be available on Blackboard. Students are required to download, read, and digest the assigned readings before coming to class. There are several films you are required to watch before coming to class: links to films will be provided on Blackboard as well.

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