Cultures & Contexts: Korea (CORE UA-543)
FALL 2021

LECTURE: M/W 3:30 PM – 4:45 PM (LOCATION: SILV 408)
Professor Yoon Jeong Oh
Email: yoon.oh@nyu.edu
Office: 19 University Place, Room 504
Office Hours: M/W 2:15pm-3:15pm (Schedule at https://calendly.com/yoon-oh)

RECITATIONS:
T 8:00-9:15 AM (LOCATION: TISC_LC5) / 9:30-10:45 AM (LOCATION: 60 5TH AVE, RM C04)
TA: Hannah Kwak
Email: yk2408@nyu.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:00pm-2pm (virtual)

T 8:00-9:15 AM (LOCATION: TISC_LC4) / 9:30-10:45 AM (LOCATION: 12WV_L114)
TA: Peter Yoon
Email: jy1320@nyu.edu
Office Hours: M/W 2:00pm-3:pm (virtual)

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Human being is often conceptualized according to various social relationships. The concepts of individual or self, for example, are closely related to those of society or the other. Are these global ideas? All of these modern concepts have in fact been imported and translated into Korea in the early 20th century. This course introduces how the self-formation of the “I” and “we” are understood and represented in relationships by exploring the topics of love, family, community, and society in modern Korean culture. It is not a mere coincidence that the concept of love, or free love, is brought into Korea soon after the concepts of individual and society are introduced and translated from Europe through Japan. Korean literature, including Yi Kwang-su’s Mujong, said to be the very first modern Korean novel, often depicts a love story as a quest of the modern individual’s self-discovery. Moreover, the family narrative that is predominant in Korean culture is also intimately related to the ups and downs of national history and social changes. By analyzing the conceptualization of the “I” along the formation of the “we” in Korean literature, film, TV drama, among other forms of cultural production, students will be able to explore broad spectrum of Korean culture and contextualize it on both individual and social levels.

Cultures and Contexts is intended to prepare you for life in a globalized world. Through critical engagements with primary cultural materials, it introduces you to ways humans come to understand themselves as members of social, religious, national, and regional collectives, and with the dynamics of cultural interaction and influence. As a part of the College Core Curriculum, it is designed to extend your education beyond the focused studies of your major, preparing you for your future life as a thoughtful individual and active member of society.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION
• Attendance:
  Attendance to all class meetings, including lectures and recitations, is mandatory. After two unexcused absences, your final grade will be lowered one full letter (A- to B-; B+ to C+; and so on). More than three absences will automatically result in failing the course even if you have completed all other course requirements.
• **Participation:**
You are expected to arrive in class on time and fully prepared to contribute. A good participant will share his or her thoughts and ideas on the assigned readings, listen to peers, and respond by building on others’ ideas or raising critical questions.

• **Writing Assignments:**
You will have to complete three short papers (2, 4, 6 pages respectively) and a final paper (8 pages). Essay prompts for each writing assignment will be given as the semester progresses. All papers must meet the required length (double-spaced, 12 point font) and be submitted as a .doc or docx file under the “Assignments” tab on NYU Brightspace by the deadline stated in the course schedule. Late work will not be accepted. Should you need an extension, it must be approved in advance.

• **Evaluation:**
Your final grade will be calculated as the following:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short papers</td>
<td>25% (6%+8%+11%)</td>
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<td>Final paper</td>
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<td>Midterm exam</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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• **Academic Integrity:**
Academic integrity means that all of your work submitted to class is yours and yours alone. Obviously, bringing answers into an examination or copying all or part of a paper straight from a book, the Internet, or a fellow student is a violation of this principle. But there are other forms of cheating or plagiarizing which are just as serious—for example, presenting an oral report drawn without attribution from other sources (oral or written); writing a sentence or paragraph which, despite being in different words, expresses someone else’s idea(s) without a reference to the source of the idea(s); or submitting essentially the same paper in two different courses (unless both instructors have given their permission in advance). Receiving or giving help on a take-home paper, examination, or quiz is also cheating, unless expressly permitted by the instructor (as in collaborative projects). Plagiarism automatically means a failing grade for the relevant assignment (0%) and possibly the entire course. Please refer to the University’s Code of Academic Integrity for more details at https://cas.nyu.edu/content/nyu-as/cas/academic-integrity.html.

• **Accommodations:**
Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. The Moses Center website is www.nyu.edu/csd. Please contact the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

**Readings**
- The following texts will be available at the NYU Bookstore and reserved at Bobst library:
*All the other readings will be available under the “Content” tab on NYU Brightspace.*
COURSE SCHEDULE

*Subject to change as the semester progresses.

I. LOVE AND ROMANCE: BETWEEN MODERN INDIVIDUAL AND COLONIAL SUBJECT

Week 1
Mon, Sep 6 Labor Day (No classes scheduled)
Wed, Sep 8 Introduction
(Start reading YI Kwang-su, *Mujŏng*, 77-348)

Week 2
Wed, Sep 15 Williams, “Individual” in *Keywords: a Vocabulary of Culture and Society*, 114-117.
(Continue reading YI Kwang-su, *Mujŏng*, 77-348)

Week 3

*Sep 25: First short paper (2 pages) due by 11:59 pm.*

Week 4

II. WOMAN AND FAMILY, OR WHERE FEMALE INDIVIDUAL DISAPPEARS

Week 5
Choi, “Wise Mother, Good Wife: A Transcultural Discursive Construct in Modern Korea,” 1-34.
Yoo, “The New Woman’ and the Politics of Love, Marriage, and Divorce and in Colonial Korea” [24 pages]

*Oct 9: Second short paper (4 pages) due by 11:59 pm.*

Week 6
Mon, Oct 11 FALL BREAK (No classes scheduled)
Tue, Oct 12  Legislative Monday (Classes will meet on a Monday schedule)

Week 7
Mon, Oct 18  CHOI In-hun, The Square, 11-84
Wed, Oct 20  CHOI In-hun, The Square, 84-158

Week 8
Mon, Oct 25  Midterm Review
Wed, Oct 27  Midterm exam

Week 9

Week 10
Wed, Nov 10  Film: YOON Je-kyoon, Ode to My Father (2014)
               Nan KIM, “Reuniting Families, Reframing the Korean War” [24 pages]

III. SOCIETY AND STATE, “THE NEW KINSHIP”

Week 11
               KU In Mo, “‘Culture’ as an Imported Concept and ‘Korea’ as a Nation-State,” 152-176.

*Nov 20: Third short paper (6 pages) due by 11:59 pm.

Week 12
Mon, Nov 22  Ryang, “Biopolitics or the Logic of Sovereign Love—Love’s Whereabouts in North Korea,” 57-83.

Week 13
Mon, Nov 29  Nam-nyong PAEK, Friend, 98-216.

Week 14
Mon, Dec 6  In-class screening: Misaeng (2014) ep.1
Final Course Review

Week 15
Mon, Dec 13  Final Exam

*Dec 17: Final paper due by 11:59 pm.