

KOREAN LITERATURE

Recommended:

- Chapters 3, 9 (section 2), 12 (section 2), 14 (section 3) and 18 (section 1) from Schirokauer, Conrad and Donald Clark's *Modern East Asia: A Brief History*. [Purchased book]

Friday morning session: (1) Approaches to reading Korean literature; (2) Korean literature from the Chosŏn dynasty (1392-1910)

We begin this lecture by discussing general approaches to the teaching of Korean literature in the U.S. classroom. We also go over materials currently available for classroom use, including translations of literary works, internet resources, and films. We then discuss one of Korea's best known stories, The Song of a Faithful Wife, Ch'unhyang, set in the reign of King Sukchong, 1671-1720. We will pay particular attention to the different ways in which the text negotiates the prescribed norms of a Confucian world via an exploration of gender relations, class and regional tension, as well as generational conflict.

- Anonymous, *The Song of a Faithful Wife, Ch'unhyang*. In Richard Rutt and Kim Chong-un, *Virtuous Women: Three Classic Korean Novels* (Royal Asiatic Society, 1974), pp. 250-333.

Friday afternoon session: (1) Korean literature from the Japanese colonial period (1910-1945)

In this lecture we discuss the ways in which Korean writers in the Japanese colonial period (1910-1945) make use of different strategies to contest Japanese rule. We read two texts from the mid-1920s associated with opposing literary camps, Yŏm Sang-sŏp's nationalist "The Rotary Press" and Yi Ki-yŏng's leftist "A Tale of Rats." We then consider colonialism in the 1930s, linking our discussion of Yi T'ae-jun's "An Idiot's Delight" and Kim Tong-ni's "A Descendant of the Hwarang" to the emerging Japanese policy of assimilation.

- YŎM Sang-sŏp, "The Rotary Press." In Kim Chong-un and Bruce Fulton eds. *A Ready-Made Life*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1998. p. 32-45.
- YI Ki-yŏng, "A Tale of Rats." In Kim Chong-un and Bruce Fulton eds. *A Ready-Made Life*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1998. p. 23-31.
- YI T'ae-jun, "An Idiot's Delight." In Kim Chong-un and Bruce Fulton eds. *A Ready-Made Life*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1998. p. 46-54.
- KIM Tong-ni, "A Descendant of the Hwarang." In Kim Chong-un and Bruce Fulton eds. *A Ready-Made Life*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1998.

Saturday morning session: Korean literature in the postliberation period (1945-present)

*This lecture focuses on major themes appearing in post-1945 Korean literature. We discuss literary representations of the Korean War and national division by way of a well-known short story by Lee Ho Chul. We read the North Korean writer Kim Puk-hyang's "The Son" as an exploration of the relationship between traditional notions of family and the ideology of the North Korean state. Yi Mun-yŏl's *Our Twisted Hero* provides us with an allegory exploring the psychology underlying authoritarianism in South Korea. We then consider how Kim Min-suk works to reveal the ways in which the draconian*

anticommunism of successive military regimes has affected gender relationships and everyday life in South Korea. Finally, we turn to a short story by a prominent member of South Korea's younger, contemporary generation of writers, Kim Yŏng-ha, as a window to life in post-authoritarian, postmodern Seoul.

- YI Hoch'ŏl, "Far From Home." In Bruce Fulton and Youngmin Kwon eds. *Modern Korean Fiction*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2005. p. 149-161.
- KIM Puk-hyang, "The Son." In Bruce Fulton and Youngmin Kwon eds. *Modern Korean Fiction*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2005. p. 195-213
- YI Mun-yol, *Our Twisted Hero*. Translated by Kevin O'Rourke. New York, NY: Hyperion, 2001. [R, 30]
- KIM Min-suk, "Scarlet Fingernails." In Bruce and Ju-chan Fulton eds. *Wayfarer*. Seattle: Women in Translation, 1997. p. 79-114.
- KIM Yŏng-ha. "Whatever Happened to That Guy Stuck in the Elevator?" (1999). In Young-ha Kim. *Photo Shop Murder*. Jason Rhodes trans. Seoul: Jimoondang, 2003. p. 17-28.