

Korean 311: Modern Korean Literature in Translation

George Mason University-Korea, Spring 2023

T 4:30 – 7:10 pm, G207
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Office Hours: R 3 – 7 pm and by appointments
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Course Description:

Since opening its door to the outside world in 1876, about one hundred and fifty years ago, Korea has gone through an accelerated process of modernization, transitioning from a feudal dynasty to a modern society with democratic government. In that often-turbulent process, Korea experienced a colonial occupation by Japan, Korean War, rapid industrialization & urbanization, and democratic movements; it also saw the emergence of modern Korean culture. In this course, we will read, view, discuss, and write about a selection of Korean literature and other cultural artifacts. Students will learn and practice methods of literary analysis and will be introduced to the key terms of modern Korean history and to the major issues of Korean society, examining the ways in which cultural artifacts represent and engage with the history.

Course Prerequisites

Recommended Prerequisite: ENGH 100 or ENGH 101 AND ENGH 201 or 202

At Mason Korea, students whose first language is Korean are recommended to take ENGH 201 or ENGH 202 to fulfill their Mason Core Literature requirements. Once they have passed ENGH 201 or ENGH 202, such students are welcome and encouraged to take Korean 311 either as an elective or for their minor in Korean. If you have any questions about this policy, please do not hesitate to write to me.

Course Outcomes:

This course fulfills the Mason Core Literature requirement. As such, at successful completion of this course, you are expected to be able to

- Read for comprehension, detail, and nuance
- Identify the specific literary qualities of language as employed texts
- Analyze the ways specific literary devices contributed to the meaning of a text
- Identify and evaluate the contribution of the social, political, historical and cultural contexts in which a literary text is produced
- Evaluate a critical argument in other's writing and presentation as well as one's own

Textbooks and Course Materials

Required Purchase:

1. *Modern Korean Fiction an Anthology*, ed. by Bruce Fulton and Youngmin Kwon (Columbia University Press, 2005) ISBN 978-0231135139 (henceforward referred as MKF)
2. *Yi Kwang-su and Modern Korean Literature: Mujong (The Heartless)* by Yi Kwang-su, trans. by Ann Sung-hi Lee (Cornell UP, 2011) ISBN: 9781885445278

These two books are easily available at bookstores in Korea and at Amazon. I advise that you compare prices and shipping time before making your purchase.

3. *Mr. Sunshine* (2018). Available on Netflix.

Additional Required Readings:

1. *Korea's Twentieth Century Odyssey: A Short History* (University of Hawaii Press, 2007). Available as [eBook at GMU Library](#). You need to log-in using your GMU id and password.
2. Additional readings will be available on Blackboard course site in "Course Readings"

Recommended Resources available in the IGC Library:

- *The History of Korea* by Kim Chun-gil (Greenwood Press, 2005). Available as [eBook at GMU Library](#). You need to log-in using your GMU id and password.
- [The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms](#) by Chris Baldick (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2015). Available as eBook at GMU Library.
- *A New History of Korea* by Ki-baik Lee, trans. by Edward Wagner and Edward Shultz (Seoul: Ilchokak, 1984)
- *Korea's Place in the Sun: a Modern History* by Bruce Cummings (New York: Norton, 2005)
- *The Korean War: a History* by Bruce Cummings (New York: Modern Library, 2010)

Blackboard:

We will heavily use Blackboard in this course. Consider it as our supplementary classroom and learn the layout of our course site.

- Class materials, such as syllabus, schedule, weekly lesson plans, assignment directions, supplementary materials, important announcements, as well as your individual grade, will be available on Blackboard.

- Many learning activities will be carried out on Blackboard, either entirely or partially. Each week's learning activities are grouped in weekly folders.
- If the class is cancelled due to weather or other situations, students should check Blackboard for updates, both the "Announcements" and the week's folder.

Course Requirements and Grading

Course Requirements	Grade Points	Late Submission Policy: •Standard Deduction Policy Applied (SDP) •Life Happens Passes Allowed (LHP) •Neither are allowed (Neither)
Classwork Participation: Group activities, Quizzes, Short writing exercises etc.	200 points	SDP
Class Presentations (Twice)	60 (30X2)	N/A
Short Writing Assignments		
Terms of Literary Analysis Worksheet & Quiz	50 (30+10+10) points	Only for the Individual Draft: SDP or LHP
Korean History Worksheet	100 points	SDP; Only for the Final Draft: LHP
Peer Reviews of the Literary Analysis Essay	20 points	Neither
Co-curricular Activities	70 points	SDP
Midterm Exam	150 points	N/A
Analytical Essay		
Essay Outline and Introduction (initial draft)	40 points	Neither
First Draft	50 points	Neither
Final Draft + Self-check list + Reflection on Revision	260 points	LHP

1. Attendance and Engagement:

I expect you to arrive on time and attend each and every class.

While the attendance is not assigned grade points, the attendance will serve as a gateway for active participation in learning activities of this class.

2. **Classwork Participation:**

Over the course of the semester, in each week, you will get multiple short writing assignments such as short responses of films, short reflections of co-curricular activities, collaborative group activities, as well as other miscellaneous work such as close reading exercises. You will complete them in and outside class times and will get participation points for them. I will provide separate instructions for each of these assignments. You will get participation points for these activities, up to 20 points per a full week and up to 245 points over the course of the semester. You will get full participation for the course if your accumulated points are at or above 230.

When grading these low-stakes assignments, I do not penalize submissions a few dates late; however, to have optimal participation in class learning activities and maximize your learning, you are strongly encouraged to stick to these deadlines as best as you can.

3. **Short Writing Assignments:** In addition to short writing exercises assigned as Classwork, you will have the following short writing assignments.

1) Terms of Literary Analysis Worksheet:

Goal (or why I ask you to do this): This is for you to learn or review the basic terms of literary analysis. In this course, you will learn to identify their instances in the literary texts and explain how they are being used to create the meaning.

Task: You will complete a worksheet of literary terms. You will look up the terms in [Chris Baldick's *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*](#) and explain the terms in your own words, along with an example in the worksheet. Following individual submissions, you will collaborate with your peers in your group to produce a finalized group draft. Each group will submit one draft together. Follow the detailed instructions in the worksheet.

2) Modern Korean History Worksheet:

Goal (or why I ask you to do this) : To understand the situations portrayed in literary-cultural texts, you will need to have some basic knowledge of Korean history. In turn, literary-cultural texts deepen your understanding of Korean history and society.

Task: You will complete a Korean History Worksheet over the course of the semester. You will work on it both individually & collaboratively with your peers, draft it in steps over the course of the semester, and will submit the finalized individual draft towards the end of the semester.

3) Peer Reviews of the Literary Analysis Essay:

You will read your peers' essay drafts, because commenting and evaluating other people's writing is integral part of getting trained to become a better writer. The peer review handout is also designed to instruct you the critical expectations of a literary analysis essay. Read it carefully and apply those rules and guidelines to your own writing as you revise. Your performance as reviewer will be graded.

4. Co-curricular Activities: I will ask you to complete an activity that has experiential learning dimension and/or has real-world impact. Further details will be announced in a separate handout.

5. **Class Presentations:**

Each of you will present twice on assigned texts. Running time for each presentation should be about 5 minutes (should not exceed seven minutes). Q & A will follow the presentation. Your presentation should contain:

- 1) your observation and/or interpretation about ONE key items of the text. This could be about
 - a. a literary device used in the text in an interesting and meaningful way
 - b. your analysis of one character that you find particularly intriguing and/or suggestive in some way. For example, you may make connections with the historical-cultural context and/or biographical facts of the author.
 - c. a short passage from the text that you find particularly suggestive and revealing
- 2) one (or two) discussion questions that you have created.

Following your presentation, you will submit to Blackboard a short summary of your presentation and the ensuing class discussions. This summary is due by the start of the following week's class meeting.

I expect all the class members to participate in the Q & A following each presentation. In your responses to the presentation, you may

- 1) summarize the key points of the presenter, identifying a relevant episode from the text
- 2) ask a question about the presentation, and/or
- 3) develop and/or complicate in some way the presenter's claim. For example, you may cite a different element from the text that supports, challenges, or adds a different dimension to the presenter's claim.

6. **Midterm Exam**

Midterm exam covers all the readings & viewings assigned till that point in the semester. The exam will mostly feature short-answer questions. I will provide more detailed information closer to the exam date.

7. **Course Paper: Analytical Essay**

In culmination of this course, you will write an analytical essay about one or more texts covered in this course. Your essay should not merely summarize and/or describe the text. Rather, you should make an **interpretive argument** about the texts, supported by your close readings of specific texts and relevant research findings.

Towards the end of the semester, you will present your work-in-progress before your peers in class and receive feedbacks on your work from your peers. You will be asked to submit a rough

draft of the paper on the presentation day. You will then revise the draft and submit the final version, along with a completed self-check list and a short reflection.

Later in the semester, I will follow with a more detailed instruction of the course paper.

COURSE EVALUATION

Your course grade will be decided per the following table:

A⁺ : 966-1000	A : 926-965	A⁻ : 896-925
B⁺ : 866-895	B : 826-865	B⁻ : 796-825
C⁺ : 766-795	C : 726-765	C⁻ : 696-725
D : 596-695		
F : 0-595		

COURSE POLICIES

1. Course Material and Recording Policy

- Students are not allowed to record the class meeting.
- Should any class sessions need to be recorded, students will be notified in advance. Any recordings will be stored on Blackboard and will only be accessible to students taking the course during this semester. If class sessions need to be recorded for any other purposes (for example, the evaluation of teaching by someone outside the course), students will be notified in advance.
- A selection of certain works (e.g., articles, podcasts, videos, book chapters) will be available to students through Blackboard and remain subject to all rights and restrictions of the publisher and are to be used solely for academic purposes.
- Course materials and recordings are not to be distributed, sold, or employed for any other purposes. All the course materials are only for the members of the course. No course materials, including your peers' writings, should be distributed or circulated outside the course.

2. Late Work Policy:

To help you manage your schedule and maximize learning in this course, I recommend that you follow the timeline that I have provided in the course calendar. When grading weekly classwork assignments, I do not penalize submissions a few dates late; however, to participate fully in class activities and optimize your learning, you will need to complete assignments by the due dates.

For weekly assignments late more than 3 calendar days and other assignments in this course, the following late work policies will apply. See the Course Requirements and Grading table on page 3 for information on which late work policy applies to which assignments.

- ✓ Late Penalty for major assignments: Late submission of a major assignment will result in 5% grade (or up to 10-point) grade reduction for each calendar day it is late, including weekends and holidays.
- ✓ Classwork will not be accepted once the submission folder is closed.
- ✓ The quiz cannot be taken once it is closed.
- ✓ **Standard Deduction Policy (SDP):** Late submission of certain assignments will result in a flat 10% grade deduction if they are completed within 7 days of the deadline. See the table on page 3.
- ✓ **Life Happens Passes (LHP):**

Since I know that “life happens” through no fault of your own, you will have **THREE Life Happens Passes** that you can use on certain assignments to secure an automatic extension without a penalty. Please see the table on page 6 to check for which assignments LHPs are allowed.

Each LHP will give you a twenty-four-hour extension from the original deadline, no questions asked. When using a pass, you do not need to explain your reasons for using it.

Ground Rules for LHP:

- 1) As soon as you can, send me an email with the following subject line.
KORE311 LHP: [Your Official Name], [the assignment name], [number of passes to be used]
- 2) The email will serve as the record. You don’t need my approval; please note that I often do not reply the LHP notification email from students.
- 3) **In addition, indicate that you are using a LHP when submitting your assignment on Blackboard** (using the memo function).
- 4) You may use LHP only for certain assignments (see the Course Requirements and Grading table on page 5).
- 5) You cannot use LHP for initial drafts of the literary analysis essay (for details, see the Course Requirements and Grading table on page 5).
- 6) You cannot use LHP retroactively (i.e., after receiving the assignment grade).

✓ **Other Late Policies** **Technology Failures**

While technology failures do happen, **they are not an excuse for late work**. Excuses such as a crashed hard drive, a corrupted file, common Blackboard glitches, and others are too difficult to verify. Accommodations for tech failures can be made only if there is a verifiable campus-wide technology problem. Otherwise, make sure you start your work early and use email to send your work as a place-holder if you can’t upload it to Blackboard, and then following up with the proper submission to Blackboard once the problem is resolved. You also have the option to use one of the LHP passes.

Situations leading to Extended Lateness

If you experience situations that will lead to submissions late more than 3 days, that is, beyond the scope covered by LHP, the best course of action is to contact me as soon as possible. Earlier you contact me, better the chance that I will be able to help you find a solution.

2. Statement on Plagiarism and George Mason Honor Code:

Because a large portion of the course assignments will be in the form of writing, I have adopted for

this course the GMU Writing Program’s statement on Plagiarism:

Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another source without giving that source credit. Writers give credit through the use of accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or end notes; a simple listing of books, articles, and websites is not sufficient.

To avoid plagiarism, meet the expectations of a US Academic Audience, give their readers a chance to investigate the issue further, and make credible arguments, writers **must**

- put quotation marks around, *and* give an in-text citation for, any sentences or distinctive phrases (even very short, 2- or 3-word phrases) that writers copy directly from any outside source: a book, a textbook, an article, a website, a newspaper, a song, a baseball card, an interview, an encyclopedia, a CD, a movie, etc.
- *completely rewrite*—not just switch out a few words—any information they find in a separate source and wish to summarize or paraphrase for their readers, *and also* give an in-text citation for that paraphrased information
- give an in-text citation for any facts, statistics, or opinions which the writers learned from outside sources (or which they just happen to *know*) and which are not considered “common knowledge” in the target audience (this may require new research to locate a credible outside source to cite)
- give a *new* in-text citation for *each element* of information—that is, do not rely on a single citation at the end of a paragraph, because that is not usually sufficient to inform a reader clearly of how much of the paragraph comes from an outside source.
- Writers must also include a Works Cited or References list at the end of their essay, providing full bibliographic information for every source cited in their essay.

I support the [Mason Honor Code https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/](https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/), which requires instructors to report any suspected instances of plagiarism to the Honor Council. All judgments about plagiarism are made after careful review by the Honor Council, which may issue penalties ranging from grade-deductions to course failure to expulsion from GMU.

The use of artificial intelligence (AI), namely, AI text generators, to produce writing for this course is not allowed unless it is otherwise stated by the instructor. If a student is found to have used AI-generated content for an assignment, that student may fail the assignment or the course.

3. GMU Nondiscrimination Policy:

Nondiscrimination Policy: George Mason University is committed to providing equal opportunity and an educational and work environment free from any discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or age. GMU shall adhere to all applicable state and federal equal opportunity/affirmative action statutes and regulations.

For the full statements of this university policy, visit <https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/non-discrimination-policy/>

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

1. [The Mason Library](#) and [IGC Library](#)

As members of GMU community, you have full access to the library resources available online. You can also seek help with your research by contacting subject librarians. “Ask the Librarian” button on the library front page is a useful tool to explore. The library website is a gateway to a treasure trove of resources and tutorials, which I will encourage you to explore and exploit throughout the semester.

I also recommend you visit the IGC library at your earliest convenience and frequent it throughout the semester. I have ordered many resources (including DVDs of Korean films) relevant for our course and I expect they will continue to arrive. The library also offers a beautiful space for study. Please visit and explore.

2. [University Writing Center](#)

Because of the pandemic, the University Writing Center in FFX offers tutoring services online. That means Mason Korea students can take advantage of these great services, too! In addition, please frequent the Writing Center’s excellent website and take advantage of its wonderful collection of resources.

3. **Tutoring Services at GMU-Korea**

Writing tutoring is available at the Academic Resources Center located on the 6th floor. I expect submissions of your major assignments largely free from grammatical and stylistic errors. Sign-up for sessions and take advantage of this useful resource.

4. **GMU-Korea Counseling Service Center**

The Counseling Center provides comprehensive support services that promote the personal, social, and academic success of GMUK students. The Center is located in Multi-Complex Building 3052 (near the IGC Health Center). To reach them, you can visit the center, email wellness@gmu.edu, or call (032) 626-6142.

IMPORTANT DATES

For the most updated and accurate information, please check the [GMU Korea Academic Calendar](#).

- Last Day to Add Classes: Monday, February 27
- Last Day to Drop Classes (with 100% tuition refund): Monday, March 6
- Last Day to Drop Classes (with 50% tuition refund): Monday, March 13
- Unrestricted Withdrawal Period: Tuesday, March 14 – Friday, March 31
- Selective Withdrawal Period: Saturday, April 1 – Friday, April 28