Gender and Sexuality in Korean Culture
Ehwa Summer School 2014

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Course Description
This course will examine how gender and sexuality have been used to investigate modern and contemporary Korean culture, especially in its social, political, economic, and military dimensions. After an introductory session on these concepts, our course will proceed across the twentieth century in a loosely chronological fashion, visiting key moments and sites when and where gender and sexuality were tied to historical transformations and contentious politics. These include patriarchy and sexual violence as they relate to both middle-class and lower-class women as well the emergence of queer movements and cultures in a contemporary Korea that is becoming increasingly multicultural. The course will expose students to a number of research articles, primary documents, feature and documentary films, as well as public institutions and media around which gender and sexuality have been discussed and made visible. By the end of the course, students will be able to assess narratives and representations of gender and sexuality in Korean culture, ones that have tended to oscillate between obfuscation and hyper-visibility.

Grading and Requirements
Attendance and Participation (including in-class presentations) 25%
Paper 1 (Due in class on July 7) 25%
Paper 2 (Due in class on July 21) 25%
Final Exam (In class on July 23) 25%

**All readings are available in the course reader and/or as PDFs. You should be sure to bring all readings to class, either as printouts or on a portable device.
WEEK 1: INTRODUCTIONS AND BEGINNINGS

Introduction (Tuesday, June 24)

Introductions

In class screening and discussion: YMCA Baseball Team (2002; 104 minutes)

Conceptual Framings (Wednesday, June 25)


Women and the Politics of Patriarchy (Thursday, June 26)


In class screening and discussion: New Woman: Her First Song (2004; 63 minutes)

WEEK 2

Turn of the Century Masculinities (Monday, June 30)

Vladimir Tikhonov, “Masculinizing the Nation: Gender Ideologies in Traditional Korea in the 1890s-1900s,” Journal of Asian Studies 66:4 (Nov. 2007): 1029-65


“New Women” Concerns (Tuesday, July 1)


In class screening: Sweet Dream (1936; 46 minutes)
The “Comfort Women” System (Wednesday, July 2)


In class screening and discussion: *In the Name of the Emperor* (1998; 50 minutes)

“Comfort Women” Memories and Critiques (Thursday, July 3)


WEEK 3

Field Trip 1 (Monday, July 7)

**PAPER 1 DUE IN CLASS**

Field trip to Women’s Museum

Camptowns and their Transnational Cultures (Tuesday, July 8)


In class screening and discussion: *The Women Outside* (1995; 60 minutes)
Domestic Sex Work (Wednesday, July 9)


In class screening and discussion: Yŏngja’s Heyday (1975; 103 minutes)

Militarized Modernity (Thursday, July 10)


In class screening and discussion: Going South (2012; 45 minutes)

WEEK 4: QUEERING KOREA

Filmic “Queerings” of the Past (Monday, July 14)


In class screening and discussion: The King and the Clown (2005; 119 minutes)

LGBT Politics (Tuesday, July 15)


In class screening (clips) and discussion: Miracle on Jongno Street (2010; 117 minutes)
Transgender Korea (Wednesday, July 16)


In class screening and discussion: *To Become 2* (2013; 80 minutes)

Queer Practices of Survival and Pleasure (Thursday, July 17)


In class screening and discussion: *Two Weddings and a Funeral* (2012; 106 minutes)

WEEK 5: FROM THE PAST, TOWARD THE FUTURE

Field Trip 2 (Monday, July 21)

**PAPER 2 DUE IN CLASS**

Field trip to Korean Sexual Minority Culture Rights Center

Gender and Sexuality in a Multicultural Korea [and Final Exam Review] (Tuesday, July 22)


In class screening and discussion: *N.E.P.A.L: Never Ending Peace and Love* (2003; 23 minutes)

Final Exam (Wednesday, July 23)

**IN CLASS FINAL EXAM**