Gender Relations in Korea

Instructor: Eun Mie Lim
Class Time: 9:00-11:30 (Monday~ Thursday)
Classroom: TBA
Office hours: by appointment
Email: emlim@ewha.ac.kr

Course Overview:
This course will examine how social, cultural, and political constructions of gender shape women’s lives in Korean society. In this course students will get a better understanding of the gender relations by reviewing and critiquing historical and contemporary sources of gender and gender roles in Korea.

This is a 4-week intensive course (10hrs/wk) that requires tremendous work-loads of both teacher and students. Careful and complete readings of the assigned texts are crucial to our success in the course. Students should complete the assigned readings before coming to class and be prepared to discuss debate, argue, analyze, question, and criticize various issues of gender relations in Korea. We will watch a few short films and discuss them in class. There are also fieldtrips. The two exams are scheduled on July 8 and July 24. All exams are in-class and closed-book. The final exam will be cumulative covering all assigned readings and class discussions.

Final grade for the course will be based on the following requirements:

Two exams: 60%
Participation in class discussion: 20%
Class attendance: 20%

Required book and Reader
A course reading package can be downloaded from http://cyber.ewha.ac.kr or you can purchase a copy from the university copy center.

Course Schedule

June 24-26
Women’s and Men’s Places in Korean Society
  ♦ What does it mean to be a woman in Korea?
  ♦ The Confucian conception of gender
  ♦ Gender hierarchy in contemporary Korea

Theories of Gender and Gender relations
  ♦ Gender, gender roles, gender relations
  ♦ Social constructions of gender

Reading assignments

June 30-July 3
Gender, Marriage and Family in Korea
  ♦ Changes in women’s status
  ♦ Reconfiguration of gender relations

Gender and Work
  ♦ Gender construction at work place
  ♦ Women in corporation

Gender and Economic Development
  ♦ Women’s role in Korea’s industrialization
  ♦ Women workers and unionization in Korea
**Reading assignments**


**July 7-10**

**Transformation of sexual work in Korea**

- Comfort women: sexual slavery in the Japanese military,
- Sexual work in contemporary Korea

**Media representations of women**

- Female sexuality in Korean popular culture
- Changing concept of beauty

**Reading assignments**


**July 7: Exam 1**

**July 14-24**

**Women and Political Development**

- Democratization and gender
- Gender Politics in Korea

**Women’s Movement in Korea**

- Feminist movements in Korea
• Gender empowerment

Reading assignments
- UNDP, Gender Empowerment Measures 2011

**July 21-24**

**Gender, race, and class in contemporary Korea**
• International marriage and migration
• Multiculturalism and gender hierarchy

Reading assignments
- Readings on multiculturalism: TBA

**Final Exam: July 24**