I. Course Description
This course explores in depth fictional narratives by representative modern Korean women novelists spanning from the 1910s to the late 1990s. All selected texts are short stories. The short-story genre is highly esteemed in modern Korean literature, as it dictates the writer’s thematic originality and depths as well as an advanced level of sophistication in narrative technique and strategy. As such, Korean novelists conventionally make their debuts through this genre, and many acclaimed authors’ fame rests on their short stories. In this regard, the selected short stories for the course are some of the most notable exemplars for meeting these demanding criteria of the genre.

The primary focus of the course is on examining literary themes and tropes that have been created, recycled, reimagined, and refashioned by generations of Korean women writers over the space of the 20th century. The intertwined key issues to be examined in the course include: dominant Confucian gender ideologies, gender order/relations/dynamics, marriage custom and conventions, family institutions, morality of conjugal and in-law relationships, questions of women’s self-identity and their personal choices, and the meaning of woman’s life and existence, to name a few. For a proper understanding of these texts, the course pays close attention to the historical, cultural, and sociopolitical fluctuations Korea had gone through as a nation that impacted the women authors and their literary production. Students are encouraged to analytically scrutinize and decipher the complex interconnections between the selected Korean women writers’ literary creativities and the various contexts and milieus from which they were produced. Ultimately, the course aims to provide students with opportunities to have a basic and informed knowledge of modern Korean women writers’ literary lineage and legacy and thereby understand and appreciate their contribution to the narrative genre of modern Korean literature.

II. SLOS (Student Learning Objectives)
By the end of the semester,
1. Student will be familiar with cultural and socio-political contexts from which works by major Korean women writers of modern times were produced and published.
2. Students will be able to analyze principal texts by modern Korean women writers from various theoretical perspectives.
3. Through the close readings of the texts, students will be able to develop their own analytical skills so as to apply them to other authors and texts in different periods.
4. Students will become competent in situating themselves within the critical field of Korean literary and cultural studies.

III. Course Format
1. As a graduate course, the course will be conducted largely as seminar. It puts emphasis on students’ initiatives and their active participation in the classroom activities in a responsible and thoughtful manner. Lectures will be limited to the minimum. Consequently, the quality of the class as well as students’ grades will depend on their thorough preparation in advance and their commitment to the student-led interactive learning process in the classroom. Students should carefully follow the course schedule and complete their assignments before class.

IV. Required Textbooks
* Additional reading materials on Laulima.

V. Grades
1. Participation: 20%
   Students are expected to actively contribute their own thoughts and opinions to class discussions in a manner respectful of other’s positions.
2. Presentation: 20%
3. Assignments: 20%
4. Term paper: 40%

VI. Course Policies
A. Classroom Activity Guidelines
1. Cell phones or other electronic devices that might disrupt the class are not allowed during the class hour.
2. No videotaping on lectures, student presentations, or class discussions is permitted.
3. Refrain from taking food during class.

B. Plagiarism
1. Including copying from the Internet, plagiarism is a serious violation of academic ethics and may lead to suspension.
2. UH Mānoa Campus Policy: [https://manoa.hawaii.edu/catalog/about-uh/campus-policies/](https://manoa.hawaii.edu/catalog/about-uh/campus-policies/)
# Course Schedule

[Course schedule and content may be subject to change.]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/12</td>
<td>Introduction and Organization</td>
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**Historico-political and Cultural Overview**

- **Lecture**
  1. “Chronology of Korean History” [Handout 1; Laulima]
  2. “Landmarks in Modern Korean History” [Handout 2; Laulima]
  3. “Socio-cultural, Educational, and Literary Milestones” [Handout 3; Laulima]

Required reference reading:

| 2    | 1/19  | Traditional Korean Women and the Rise of Modern Korean Women’s Writing |

**Lecture**

- 3. “Modern Transformation of Korean Women.” [Handout 5; Laulima]

| 3    | 1/26  | Genealogy of Modern Korean Women Writers |

**Lecture**


| 4    | 2/2   | First Generation: Korean Feminist Writers |

- **Student presentation begins.**


Required reference reading:


2/23 *Politics of Marriage, Gender Relations, and Women’s Desire*


3/9 1. Im Og-in (1915-1995). “Chronicle of a Third Wife” (1940) [GL]

3/16 *Spring Recess*

3/23 *Koreans’ Historical & Political Experience*

Required reference reading:


*Changing Concepts of Gender and Family: 1970s-1990s*


Required reference reading:


*Due: Term paper topic and outline*

Review

Final Term Paper:
Due 5/11 (T), 10am; upload on to Laulima—no extension of the deadline.

Reference


In addition, check out “Bibliography” in Questioning Minds and Gendered Landscapes.