
ASNS 2874. Madness in Korean Literature and Film

Spring 2022

M/W 10:05–11:30am

Searles 113

Instructor: John H. Kim
Email: jkim4@bowdoin.edu
Office: 38 College Street, Room 102
Hours: M/W, 1pm – 4pm; or by appointment
Schedule it: <http://bowdo.in/JKimOfficeHours> (via Bookings)

Course Description

An introduction to the literary and filmic tradition of Korea's modern period through the thematic lens of madness. Explores the significance of madness within the history of twentieth- and twenty-first century Korean fiction, poetry, and film, from the colonial period and the Korean War to democratization and contemporary popular culture. With attention to political, economic, social, and technological developments, asks how the representation of madness illuminates problems of history and memory, language and representation, gender and sexuality, and global capitalism, that are both unique to the shaping of the Korean cultural identity and, at the same time, deeply universal. Qualifies for IP credit.

Learning Goals

- Gain familiarity with “Korea” as a category of analysis; identify major points of inflection in Korea's historical, political, and cultural landscape over the last century
- Think critically about literature and film through both close reading & thematic analysis
- Formulate good questions—toward even better answers
- Communicate complex ideas clearly and creatively, in both writing & speech
- Learn how to learn with others; appreciate learning as a collective enterprise

Texts & Films

All primary texts and will be available either on Course Reserve at the library or on Blackboard. Secondary readings will be available on Blackboard.

You will be expected to watch these films ahead of class on your own. Watch at 1x speed.

Assignments

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| • Post-Discussion Posts | Due: Fridays, end of day |
| • Unit 1 Paper (2-3 pages) | Due: 2/25 Friday, end of day |
| • Unit 2 Paper (4-5 pages) | Due: 4/8 Friday, end of day |
| • Final Paper/Project Topic Proposal | Due: 5/6 Friday, end of day |
| • Presentation of Final Paper/Project Topics | Due: Final week of class |
| • Final Paper/Project | Due: 5/21 Saturday, end of day |

All work is to be **uploaded to Blackboard** by the due date.

Grading

• Small-group Work	20%
• Unit 1 Paper	15%
• Unit 2 Paper	20%
• Final Paper/Project	25%
• Course Citizenship	20%

All paper/project assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade for the course. Late papers will be penalized a third of a letter grade per day beyond the due date (e.g. B+ becomes a B if the paper is received at the beginning of the next day). Permission for extensions are required; all requests are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Academic Integrity

Engaging in scholarship is about understanding and appreciating the sanctity of ideas—both your own as well as those of others. This means properly citing your sources; being informed about the differences between general knowledge and intellectual property; knowing how and when to summarize in your own words versus quoting verbatim; and in general, acting carefully and in good faith in the formulation and articulation of your ideas, particularly in writing. The penalty for compromising your academic integrity will be a referral to the Judiciary Board and the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs. Please refer to Bowdoin's academic honesty policy here:

<http://www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/academic-honesty/>. So, when in doubt, don't hesitate to consult the [Writing Project](#) or your instructor.

Academic Accommodations

Students who need academic accommodations must first register with the Director of Accommodations for Students with Disabilities in the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs. They must then inform the instructor by the second week of the term so as to maximize responsiveness and minimize potential problems. The Office will discuss appropriate measures/solutions with the instructor. All discussions will remain confidential.

Schedule

	Week	Dates	Monday	Wednesday	Secondary Source	Assignment
UNIT 1 Hauntings	1	1/24–1/26	Introduction	Introduction		
	2	1/31–2/2	Hyŏn Chingŏn, “Fire,” “A Lucky Day”	Kim Tong-in, “Potatoes,” “The Mad Painter”	Yoo, “A Touch of Madness” (Monday); “Japanese Colonial Period” (optional)	Web Post (WP)
	3	2/7–2/9	Yi, “Crows,” “Tale of Rabbits,” Pak, “The Hound”	Kang Kyŏng-ae, “Underground Village”	Choi, “Impaired Body as Colonial Trope” (Wednesday)	WP
	4	2/14–2/16	Yi Sang, “Wings,” poems	Kim Tong-ni, “The Shaman Painting”	Em, “‘Wings’ as Anti-Colonial Allegory” (M); Yoo, “Korean Shamanistic Practices” (W)	WP
	5	2/21–2/23	<u>Film</u> : <i>The Wailing</i>	<u>Film</u> : <i>Secret Sunshine</i>	Clements, “The Interstitial Ogre” (M); Sng, “Syncretic Sunshine” (W)	WP Unit 1 Paper
UNIT 2 Wanderings	6	2/28–3/2	Pak Wansŏ, “Mother’s Hitching Post,” “Winter Outing”	O Chŏng-hui, “Spirit on the Wind”	Kim, “Korea beyond and within the Armistice” (M); Caruth, “Recapturing the Past” (W); “Liberation & Division,” “Korean War” (optional)	WP
	7	3/7–3/9	Im Ch’or-u, “The Red Room”	<u>Film</u> : <i>The Net</i>		WP
		3/12–3/27	\$ P R I N G B R E A K	\$ P R I N G B R E A K		
	8	3/28–3/30	Ch’oe Yun, “There a Petal Silently Falls”	<u>Film</u> : <i>Peppermint Candy</i>	Magnan-Park, “The Will Not to Forget” (W); “The Republic of Korea” (optional)	WP
	9	4/4–4/6	Kim Youngha, <i>I Have the Right to Destroy Myself</i>	<u>Film</u> : <i>Oldboy</i>	Freud, <i>Beyond Pleasure Principle</i> (M); Jeon, “Residual Selves” (W); “Civilian Presidents” (opt.)	WP Unit 2 Paper
UNIT 3 The Upside-Down	10	4/11–4/13	Han Kang, <i>The Vegetarian</i> (Parts 1 & 2)	Han, <i>The Vegetarian</i> (Part 3)	Kim, “Eating and Suffering in <i>The Vegetarian</i> ” (M); Elfving-Hwang, <i>Femininity</i> (W)	WP
	11	4/18–4/20	Kim Sagwa, <i>Mina</i> , pp. 1-137	Kim, <i>Mina</i> (finish)	Ahn & Baek, “Academic Achievement” (M); Oh & Connolly, “Anger as Mediator” (W)	WP
	12	4/25–4/27	Lee Ki-ho, <i>At Least We Can Apologize</i>	<u>Film</u> : <i>I’m a Cyborg, But That’s OK</i>	Yoo, “Madness Is...” (W); Choe, “The Invention of Romance” (W)	WP Final Proposal
	13	5/2–5/4	Bandi, <i>The Accusation</i> (selections)	<u>Film</u> : <i>Save the Green Planet!</i>	“From North Korea, With Dread” (M)	WP
	14	5/9–5/11	Paper/Project Presentations	Presentations & Reflections		
Final		5/21				Final