

**Spring 2016**  
**HL210/2010 East Asian Literature**  
**Class meets: TBA**  
**Class Location: TBA**  
**Instructor: Hyunjung Lee**  
**Office: HSS-03-70**  
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**Office hours: TBA**

**Descriptions:**

This course examines literatures and cultures in different regions of contemporary East Asia (South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Japan, etc.). The range of the texts in this course includes fictions, short stories, theatrical performance, and films, and we will discuss these cultural products vis-à-vis the intensive process of globalization in these regions (roughly early 1990s and onwards) as well as in the context of rapidly growing inter-Asian cultural flows we are facing now. Also, moving beyond the selected texts as part of a literary/art genre, we will envision how these cultural productions are inseparable from our living surroundings and, how these texts shape social memories, traditional Asian values, gender roles, nationalisms, and historical traumas. Readings and media used in this course will be in English translations/subtitles.

**Required Course Readings:**

**[To be purchased at the bookstore on campus—if not, order the books on your own @ Amazon.com OR Bookdepository.com]:**

1. **Wu Zhuoliu, *Orphan of Asia*, trans. Ioannis Mentzas, Columbia UP, 2006 [ISBN: 978-0-231-13726-3]**
2. **Chen Ran, *A Private Life*, trans. John Howard-Gibbon, Columbia UP, 2004 [ISBN: 0-231-13196-8]**
3. **Banana Yoshimoto, *Kitchen*, trans. Megan Backus, Washington Square Press, 1993 [ISBN: 0-671-88018-7]**

**\*All other readings (besides the above texts) will be available @ NTU Learn; students should download, read, and digest the assigned readings before coming to class.**

**Requirement:**

1. Participation: 20% (**various in-class activities**)
2. Mid-term paper: 30% (**Detailed instructions and assignment prompt to be distributed well before the due date**)
3. Final exam: 50%

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1: Introduction: Explain syllabus, course requirements, etc.**

**Week 2: Gendered Modernization**

\* Video Clip: *The Lost Empire* (Empress Myongsung music video, KBS TV Drama Series)

\* Yoon Ho-jin's *The Last Empress*

**Week 3: Writing women in East Asia 1**

\* Shin Kyong-suk, "Where the Organ Once Stood"

**Week 4: Writing women in East Asia 2**

\* Chen Ran, *A Private Life*

**Week 5: Writing women in East Asia 3**

\* Banana Yoshimoto, *Kitchen*

**Week 6: Being lost in Asia**

\* Wu Zhuoliu, *Orphan of Asia*

**Week 7: Performing Asian Solidarity**

\* *Nanta* (nonverbal performance)

**Week 8: Recess**

**Week 9: Workings of memory, trauma, and history 1**

\* In-class film screening: Zhang Yimou, *To Live*

**Week 10: Workings of memory, trauma, and history 2**

\* Peter Chan, *Comrades, Almost a Love Story*

(All students are required to watch the film before class. The film under reserve @ Business Library)

**Week 11: TBA**

**Week 12: Workings of memory, trauma, and history 3**

\* Im Kwon-taek, *Sopyonje*

(All students are required to watch the film before class. The film under reserve @ Business Library)

**Week 13: Workings of memory, trauma, and history 4**

\* Chen Kaige, *Farewell My Concubine*

(All students are required to watch the film before class. The film is under reserve @ Business Library)

\* **Wrap-up, catch-up, exam Prep**