

Fall 2016

HL4032 Urban Culture Asia (Asian Popular Culture)

Class Schedule: Thursdays 2:30-5:30

Class meets: LHS-TR+12 (The "Hive")

Instructor: Hyunjung Lee

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Office hours for fall 2016: TBA

## Course Description

This course seeks ways to explicate variable, contested, and multi-layered features of urban cultures in Asian societies. The question of urban Asia, or "Asian modernity" acquires new significance at the current moment, as the impact of globalization and advancement of digital technology have created a thriving East Asian cultural market and active exchanges of pan-Asian popular cultures among different Asian locations. Looking into various forms of urban culture in contemporary Asian societies—novels, short stories, musicals, films, sporting events, including current examples of K-pop fandom and related Boy-Bands and Girl-Groups, etc.—students will be engaged in critical discussions about how people experience patterns of national/cultural expressions that are not readily reduced to fixed, static, narrative descriptions. Active class participation is extremely crucial.

## Course Readings & Other Materials (Most of the readings available@ NTU Learn)

**\*Some of the titles are subject to change!**

1. Young-ha Kim, *I Have the Right to Destroy Myself* (1996) (To be purchased separately)
2. *Old Boy* (dir. Chan-wook Park) (a film)
3. *Host* (dir. Jun-ho Bong) (a film)
4. *Café Lumière* (dir. Hou Hsiao-Hsien) (a film)
5. Yoshimoto Banana, "Newly Wed"
6. Eileen Chang, *Lust, Caution*
7. *Lust, Caution* (dir. Ang Lee) (a film)
8. Hong Kal, "Seoul and the Time in motion: urban form and political consciousness"
9. Kim, Min-ki, *Line 1 (Jihachol il hoson)*
10. *Modern Boy* (dir. Ji-woo Jung)

## References (Suggested Readings and Resources) \*Readings available@ NTU Learn

1. *Tokyo!* (Film trilogy by 3 directors) (a film)
2. Koichi Iwabuchi, "Lost in TransNation: Tokyo and the urban imaginary in the era of globalization"
3. Yoshimi Shunya, "Consuming America, producing Japan"
4. Chua Beng Huat and Koichi Iwabuchi, eds., *East Asian Pop Culture: Analyzing the Korean Wave*
5. Kim, Seung-oak, *Seoul, 1964 Winter*
6. *Lost in Translation* (dir. Sofia Coppola)
7. Arjun Appadurai. *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996.
8. Chen Kuan-Hsing. "Not Yet the Postcolonial Era: The (Super) Nation-State and Transnationalism of Cultural Studies: Response to Ang and Stratton." *Cultural Studies* 10, no. 1 (1996): 37-70.
9. Leo Ching. "Globalizing the Regional, Regionalizing the Global: Mass Culture and Asianism in the

- Age of Late Capital." *Public Culture* 12, no. 1 (2000): 233–57.
10. Choy Lee Wang. "Authenticity, Reflexivity, and Spectacle; or, The Rise of New Asia is Not the End of the World." *positions* 12, no. 3 (2004): 643–66.
11. Stuart Hall. "The Local and the Global: Globalization and Ethnicity." In *Culture, Globalization and the World System: Contemporary Conditions for the Representation of Identity*, edited by Anthony D. King, 19-39. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997.

**Course Outline (Some of the following are subject to change!)**

Week	Topics	Reading Assignments
<b>ONE</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	
<b>TWO</b>	<b>The Lure of the Modern: the modern Shanghai and the urban culture, from the 1940s to present</b>	* Eileen Chang, <i>Lust, Caution</i> * Ang Lee (dir.) <i>Lust, Caution</i> (色,戒) (2007) (Watch the film prior to class; film reserved at the business library)
<b>THREE</b>	<b>The Lure of the Modern: the modern Seoul and the urban culture, from the 1940s to present</b>	* Hong Kal, "Seoul and the Time in motion: urban form and political consciousness" * Jung Ji-woo (dir.) <i>Modern Boy</i> (모던보이)(2008) (Watch the film prior to class; film reserved at the business library)
<b>FOUR</b>	<b>Delineating the urban landscape in Asia</b>	* Bong Jun-ho (dir.) <i>Host</i> (괴물)(2006) (Watch the film prior to class; film reserved at the business library)
<b>FIVE</b>	<b>Continuation and disjuncture, Old and the New</b>	* Park Chan-wook (dir.) <i>Old Boy</i> (올드보이)(2003) (Watch the film prior to class; film reserved at the business library)
<b>SIX</b>	<b>Sporting event as urban culture in Asia: Korea-Japan 2002 World Cup</b>	*Hyunjung Lee, "Performing Nation-ness in South Korea: Social spectacle during the 2002 Korea-Japan World Cup," <i>Korea Journal</i> (Vol. 49, Issue 03, Autumn 2009, pp. 93-120)
<b>SEVEN</b>	<b>Hari Raya Haji (Public Holiday)</b>	
<b>EIGHT</b>	<b>RECESS</b>	
<b>NINE</b>	<b>Tokyo in Motion</b>  * <i>Term paper Prospectus due in class</i>	*Yoshimoto Banana, "Newly Wed" *Hou Hsiao-Hsien (dir.), <i>Café Lumière</i> (咖啡時光) (2003)
<b>TEN</b>	<b>Questions of Youth Culture and the Asian Modern</b>	*Kim Young-ha, <i>I Have the Right to Destroy Myself</i> (1996) (a novel)
<b>ELEVEN</b>	<b>Conference (class cancelled) Class make-up TBA</b>	
<b>TWELVE</b>	<b>Location of Hong Kong</b>	* Wong Kar-wai (dir.) <i>In the Mood for Love</i> (花樣年華) (2000) (Watch the film prior to class; film reserved at the business library)
<b>THIRTEEN</b>	<b>Korean Wave and its reception/consumption in</b>	Discussing the K-pop fandom (Students' selections of Boy-Bands and Girl-Groups) *Requires students'

	<b>Singapore</b>	participation
<b>FOURTEEN</b>	<b>Riding the Subway, Exam Prep, Review, Q&amp;A, etc.</b>	* Kim Min-ki, <i>Line 1</i> (지하철 1 호선) (a musical)

### Student Assessment

Students will be assessed by:

1. **Class Participation: 10%** (Expressive, energetic communication skills and preparations for in-class discussions/debates will be expected)
2. **Informal Writing Tasks and Assignments: 10%** (Details TBA)
3. **Term paper: 30% (+ *Essay prospectus, 1page*)**

Students will be provided with 2-3 prompts for their term paper assignments ahead of time. They will be expected to write a critical essay (2500-3000 words) which is related to the readings dealt in the course. Students' writing abilities, ranging from argumentative skills, organization, style, grammar, etc. will be assessed. More details coming up.

4. **Final Exam: 50%**

This will be the comprehensive exam taken inside the exam hall during the designated school exam period, covering the overall issues and themes taught in the course.