

**Spring 2017**  
**HL2010 East Asian Literature**  
**Class meets: W 2:30-5:30**  
**Class Location: LHS TR+38**  
**Instructor: Hyunjung Lee**  
**Office: HSS-03-70**  
**Contact: [hlee@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:hlee@ntu.edu.sg), phone: 6513-8185**  
**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.

**\* All readings will be available @ NTU Learn; students should download, read, and digest the assigned readings before coming to class. (Except Han Kang's *The Vegetarian*)**

**Course Schedule (Some of the contents are subject to change)**

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**

- \* Chen Ran, *A Private Life*

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

- \* Banana Yoshimoto, *Kitchen*

Week 5: **Chinese New Year (no class)**

Week 6: **Writing women in East Asia 3**

- \* Han Kang, *The Vegetarian*

Week 7: **Being lost in Asia**

- \* Wu Zhuoliu, *Orphan of Asia*

Week 8: **Recess (no class)**

Week 9: Performing Asian Solidarity

\* *Nanta* (nonverbal performance) [no reading required]

Week 10: **Workings of memory, trauma, and history 1**

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

Week 11: **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 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**

**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: 10%** (Details TBA)
3. **Term paper: 30%**
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.