

Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Korea (Draft)

Ewha International Co-Ed Summer College 2019
Monday-Thursday, 9:00-11:30 AM
ECC B150

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Course Description

This course examines the history of sex, gender, and sexuality in South Korea from its founding in 1948 until the present. It pays special attention to the expression of non-normative sexuality and gender variance, or what today is often referred to as L(esbian), G(ay), B(isexual), T(ransgender), Q(ueer). Through academic research, primary documents, visual materials, and media sources, we will explore the lived experiences of LGBTQ peoples, while recognizing the inherent limits of accessing their identities. In addition to making marginalized peoples the object of our study, we will also use discourses and representations of “problematic” bodies and practices to understand important structures of power that have dominated South Korea, such as capitalism, militarism, imperialism, urbanization, sexism, and patriarchy. By the end of the course, students will be able to assess non-normative forms of sex, gender, and sexuality in South Korea, ones that have tended to oscillate between obfuscation and hyper-visibility.

Grading and Requirements

Attendance, Reading Posts, Presentation, and Participation 33.33%
Note: According to policy, more than two unexcused absences will result in a failing grade.
Three unexcused tardies (missing more than 10 minutes of class) will result in one full absence.
Paper 1 (Due in class on Monday, July 9) 33.33%
Paper 2 (Due in class on Monday, July 23) 33.33%

Reading Responses

For each reading, provide a 200 word summary/discussion of the article(s). Identify the topic/key issue and your response (what intrigued, confused, inspired you, etc.?). Upload the reading response (naming it YourLastName_KeyWord_Class#) onto the course discussion board.

SECTION 1: HISTORICAL AND THEORETICAL ORIENTATION

1. Introduction (Wednesday, June 27)

In class film: *Miracle on Jongro Street* (2010; 1 hour 57 minutes)

2. Capitalism and Gay Identity (Thursday, June 28)

John D’Emilio. 1983. “Capitalism and Gay Identity.” In Ann Snitow, Christine Stansell, and Sharan Thompson, eds. *Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality*, pp. 100-113. New York: Monthly Review Press.

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction, Volume 1* (New York, Vintage Books, 1990), 17-49.

3. Family, Gender, and Nation (Monday, July 2)

Cho, Han Haejoang, 2000. "'You are entrapped in an imaginary well': the formation of subjectivity within compressed development—a feminist critique of modernity and Korean culture." *InterAsia Cultural Studies* 1(1): 49-69.

Kim H.M. Kim, Hyun Mee. 2001. "Women, Nation and Hypermasculinity: The 'Woman' Question in the Economic Miracle and Crisis in South Korea." *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*. 2(1): 53-58.

In class film: *Secrets Behind Korea's Economic Success* (2010; 79 minutes)

Distribute paper 1 guidelines

4. Guest Lecture on Current "Sexual Minority" Activism (Tuesday, July 3)

Key Results of the South Korean Community Social Needs Assessment Survey (Seoul: Korean Gay Men's Human Rights Organization, 2014), 1-50.

Youngshik D. Bong, "The Gay Rights Movement in Democratizing Korea," *Korean Studies* 32 (2009): 86-103.

SECTION 2: FAMILY, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY IN POST-AUTHORITARIAN SOUTH KOREA

5. Homosexuality across the Generations (Wednesday, July 4)

Todd A. Henry, "Queer Lives as Cautionary Tales." In Todd A. Henry (ed), *Queer Korea*. (Durham and London: Duke University Press), 1-??.

Sujin Park-Kim, "Ch'oe Myung-Hwan, Lesbian," (Seoul: The Lesbian Institute for Lesbians, 2006), 14-28 (Chapters 5-Epilogue).

In class film: *Uncle "Bar" at Barbershop* (2002; 24 minutes)

6. "Sexual Minority" Movements under Early Democracy (Thursday, July 5)

Seo Dong-Jin, "Mapping the Vicissitudes of Homosexual Identities in South Korea," *Journal of Homosexuality* 40:3 (2001): 65-79.

Soo Jin Park-Kim, Lee-Kim, Soo Youn, Kwon-Lee Eun Jung, 2006. "The Lesbian Rights Movement and Feminism in South Korea." 2006. In *Journal of Lesbian Studies* 10(3/4). Pp. 161-190.

In class film: *Broken Branches* (1996; 96 minutes)

7. Non-normative Lifestyles (Monday, July 9)

John (Song Pae) Cho, "The Wedding Banquet Revisited: 'Contract Marriages' between Korean Gays and Lesbians," *Anthropological Quarterly* 82:2 (2009): 401-422.

Hwajeong Yoo. 2015. "Chapter 5: Living Cohabitation." In *Living Cohabitation in the Republic of Korea*. PhD Diss.: University of York.

In class film: *Two Weddings and a Funeral* (2012; 106 minutes) or *Weekends* (2016; 95 minutes)

8. Trans-embodiments (Tuesday, July 10)

Tari Youngjung Na and Hae Yeon Choo, "Becoming a Female-to-Male Transgender (FTM) in South Korea," in Chris Bobel and Samantha Kwan (eds.), *Embodied Resistance: Challenging the Norms, Breaking the Rules* (Nashville: Vanderbilt Press, 2011), 48-57.

Ruin. 2016. "Discussing Transnormativities through Transfeminism: Fifth Note." *Transgender Studies Quarterly*. 3(1-2): 202-211.

In class film: *To Become 2* (2013; 80 minutes)

Paper 1 due in class

9. Class visit to Itaewon (Wednesday, July 11)

**SECTION 3: MEDIA AND THE
POLITICS OF QUEER COMMODIFICATION**

10. K-Pop and Queer Performances (Thursday, July 12)

Layoung Shin, "K-pop, Fandom, and Same-Sex Sexuality among Young Women in Contemporary South Korea," (forthcoming): 1-27.

Jungmin Kwon. 2016. "Commodifying the Gay Body: Globalization, the Film Industry, and Female Prosumers in the Korean Mediascape." *International Journal of Communication*. 10: 1563-1580.

In class film: *Front Cover* (2015; 87 minutes)

Distribute paper 2 guidelines

Extracurricular Activity: Queer Korea Culture Festival Parade (Saturday, July 15)

11. National Others (Monday, July 16)

Unsan Kim. 2017. "Queer Korean cinema, national others, and the making of queer space in *Stateless Things*." *Journal of Japanese and Korean Cinema*.

In class film: *Stateless Things* (2011; 117 minutes)

12. Class visit by film director Kim Kyoung-mook (Tuesday, July 17).

13. Queer Diaspora (Wednesday, July 18)

Laurence Barber. 2017. "Coming In: Culture, class and repression in Andrew Ahn's 'Spa Night.'" *Metro Magazine: Media & Education Magazine*. 191.

Su Yon Pak. 2011. "Coming Home/Coming Out: Reflections of a Queer Family and the Challenge of Eldercare in the Korean Diaspora." *Theology & Sexuality*. 17(3): 337-351.

In class film: *Spa Night* (2016; 133 minutes)

SECTION 4: WRAP UP

14. Class Presentations and Review (Thursday, July 19)

15. In-Class Presentations and Breakfast Party (Monday, July 23)

****Paper 2 due****