Sex, Gender, and Sexuality in Korea (Draft)

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

Dr. John Cho
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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). Though 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)


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


*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)**


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

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


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

6. **“Sexual Minority” Movements under Early Democracy (Thursday, July 5)**


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

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


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

8. Trans-embodiments (Tuesday, July 10)


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)


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)


*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)


*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**