

01:574:420 Traditional Korean Poetry: *Sijo*

BTAA Korean Studies e-Course (Rutgers, Minnesota, Illinois-Urbana Champaign)

Professor Young-mee Yu Cho [yucho@rutgers.edu]

Tuesday & Friday 11:30-12:50

Office Hours: Friday 10-11 am, 12:50-1:30 pm & by appointment

AB-5140

Spring 2020

Syllabus

Course Description

The course examines one of the most prominent and enduring poetic forms of traditional Korea, *sijo*. *Sijo*, a three-line verse form written to be performed in a musical setting, emerged in the latter part of the Koryŏ dynasty (918-1392), flourished through the Chosŏn dynasty (1392-1910), and has transformed itself into contemporary forms. First, we will situate *sijo* within the larger context of traditional East Asian poetic tradition, and then explore its unique structural and thematic properties through the lens of the language, religion and culture of Korea. Lastly, we will analyze the historical backgrounds of modified *sasŏl sijo* of the 18th century and modern *sijo* of the 20th century, and uncover cultural and linguistic implications of *sijo* translation and the current popularity of *sijo* in North America.

The course consists of three units: Unit 1 "Poetry in Traditional East Asia" introduces traditional East Asian verse forms that have influenced Korean vernacular poetry such as *hyangga*, *Koryŏ sogyo*, *sijo* and *kasa*, and chronicles the rise of *sijo* as a distinctive genre in Korean literature; Unit 2 "The Structure of *Sijo*" focuses on the linguistic structure of *sijo* in its variant forms (*p'yŏngsijo*, *ŏssijo* and *sasŏl sijo*) and the interface between literature and music; and Unit 3 "Thematic and Prosodic Expansion" deals with the development of *sijo* and its resilience to absorb a wide range of themes, poetic devices and metrical qualities both in historical and contemporary settings.

No background in Korean language and literature is required as class discussions will be based on the English translations. However, students who are proficient in the Korean language will be encouraged to read the texts in the original.

Course Learning Goals

This course satisfies the following Asian Languages and Cultures Department Learning Goals [<http://asianstudies.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/learning-goals>].

- Acquire in-depth knowledge of East Asian Literature in translation, theoretical texts, and critical material on those literary and/or theoretical texts.
- Analyze and interpret major texts and issues concerning East Asia and relate them to other areas in the humanities following a comparative approach.

Course Requirements

Class Attendance and Participation

Each student is required to complete all assigned reading before class and is responsible for presenting on the week's readings and leading discussion at least two times in the semester.

Writing Assignments

Every three weeks, students are responsible for submitting written responses no later than 3:00 AM the day of the class, will be collected in individual student portfolios that serve to document the student's evolving insights into the subject matter of the course as well as their ability to convey their thoughts, both orally and in written form, in a mode appropriate to the field of East Asian Studies and Korean Studies.

Unit Tests

Two unit-tests at the end of each unit will be given in order to evaluate students' understanding of the primary texts and their ability to assimilate critical interpretations of the materials.

Final Project

A research proposal will be submitted in Week 11 and the presentation of the proposal will be scheduled in Week 14. The final research paper (a 10-page single-spaced) is due on May 4 (Monday). All written assignments will be evaluated based on the logical presentation of the ideas and issues covered in class reading and discussion, as well as on the originality of critical reflection of these issues.

Grading

Class Attendance and Participation: 10%

4 Written Responses: 20%

Two Unit Tests: 30%

Other Assignments and Quizzes: 10%

Final Project: 30%

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to observe the highest standards of academic honesty at all times. For more information on the definition and policies regarding academic integrity at Rutgers see the website with the same title: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

Required Texts

To purchase:

- (1) Rutt, Richard. *The Bamboo Grove: An Introduction to Sijo*. 1998. The University of Michigan Press.

For reference:

- (1) McCann, David. R. *Early Korean Literature*. 2000. Columbia University Press.
- (2) Kim, Hunggyu. *Understanding Korean Literature*. 1997. M.E. Sharpe.
- (3) Kim, Jaihiun. *Classical Korean Poetry*. 1994. Asian Humanities Press.
- (3) Lee, Peter. Ed. *An Anthology of Traditional Korean Literature*. 2017. Univ. of Hawaii Press.
- (4) O'Rourke, Kevin. *The Book of Korean Sijo*. 2002. Harvard University Asia Center.
- (5) Ko, Jeong-hee & J. Byron-Davies. *Encounters with Korean Lyrical Spirit*. 2019. BookAsia.
- (6) Park, Linda Sue. *Tap Dancing on the Roof*. 2007. Clarion Books.

All other required material will be available in electronic format on the sakai site for this course (<https://sakai.rutgers.edu>).

Course Schedule

UNIT 1: Poetry in Traditional East Asia

- Week 1 **Course Introduction (1/21 & 24)**
Cho, Young-mee Yu (2002) "Diglossia"
McCann (2000) *Early Korean Literature*
- Week 2 **Poetry as Music and Traditional Poetic Forms of East Asia (1/28 & 31)**
Owen, Stephen, "Forward to *The Book of Songs*" (1996)
Primary readings from Owen, *An Anthology of Chinese Literature, Beginnings to 1911* (1996)
 "The Great Preface" to the Classic of Poetry (*Anthology* 64-66)
 Ode #1 "Fishhawk" (*Anthology*, 31), "The Airs" (*Anthology* 31-32, 51-52)
- Regulated Verse**
Stephen Owen: *The Great Age of Chinese Poetry: The High Tang* (1981)
 Chapter 4: Wang Wei "The Artifice of Simplicity"
 Chapter 8: Li Po "A New Concept of Genius"
 Chapter 11: Tu Fu
- Week 3 **Japanese Poetry (2/4 & 2/7)**
Carter, Stephen. (1993) "The Early Modern Age," & "The Modern Age." *Traditional Japanese Poetry: An Anthology*.
Shirane, Haruo. (2012) *Traditional Japanese Literature: An Anthology, Beginnings to 1600*. 521-528.
Ravina, M. (2015) "Japanese Poetry: The Road to Haiku" *Understanding Japan: A Cultural History*. Video lecture.
Wang, Sook Young. (2012) "Waka and Korean Poetry," in Shirane, H. (2012) *Waka Opening up to the World*.
- Week 4 **Early Korean Poetry (2/11 & 14)**
Kim, Hunggyu (1997) *Understanding Korean Literature*
Lee, Peter. (2017) "Hyangga" & "Koryō Songs"
- Week 5 **Diglossia—Classical Chinese vs. Vernacular**
Taylor and Taylor. (2014) *Writing and Literacy in Chinese, Korean, and Japanese*. 2nd edition.
Shirane, H. (2012) *Waka Opening up to the World*.
- Unit 1 Test & Wiki Project (2/18 & 2/21)**

UNIT 2: The Structure of *Sijo*

- Week 6 **Linguistic Analysis of *P'yŏng Sijo* (2/25 & 28)**
McCann, D. (1976) "The Structure of The Korean *Sijo*." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*.
McCann, D. (2000) "Performance and Korean *Sijo* Verse." *Early Korean Literature*.
Kim, Dae-Haeng (2009) "Sijo: Verse in Three Lines." *Classical Poetic Songs of Korea*.
- Week 7 **Linguistic Analysis of *P'yŏng Sijo* (3/3, 3/6)**
Shin, Kiaer, & Cha. (2013) *The Sounds of Korean*. Cambridge University Press.
Rutt, Richard (1998) "The Introduction," *The Bamboo Grove*. Univ. of Michigan Press.
Um, Hye-kyung (2007) "Classical Music: Vocal," *Music of Korea*. The National Center for Korean Traditional Performing Arts.
- Week 8 **Thematic Analysis of *P'yŏng Sijo* (3/10 & 3/13)**
Lee, Peter. (2017) "Sijo" (51-98)
McCann (2000) "The Sijo Exchange" (32), "Sijo" (47-57)
- Week 9 **Thematic Analysis of *P'yŏng Sijo* (3/24 & 3/ 27)**
Rutt, Richard. (1998) *The Bamboo Grove*.
- Week 10 **Thematic Analysis of *P'yŏng Sijo* (3/31 & 4/3)**
Unit 2 Test

UNIT 3: Thematic and Poetic Expansion

- Week 11 ***Sasŏl Sijo* (4/7, 4/10)**
Kim, J. (1994) *Classical Korean Poetry*.
Kim, Heunggyu. (2010) "sasŏl sijo-uy segye" [The World of *Sasol Sijo*].
- Week 12 **Modern *Sijo* in Korea (4/14, 4/17)**
Lee, J-Y. (2013) *The History of Contemporary Korean Sijo*.
Kim, H-S. (2015) *The Theory and Critical Analyses of Contemporary Sijo*.
- Week 13 **Translation and Adaptation into English Literature (4/28 & 5/1)**
Kim, William (Unsong). (1986) *Poet*.
Park, L. S. (2007) *Tap Dancing on the Roof*.
O'Rourke, K. (2002) *The Book of Korean Sijo*.
Yoon, Hye-Joon. (2011) "The Task and Risk of Translating Classical Korean Sijo: Yun Sondo and Hwang Chini"
The Sijoforum
- Week 14 **Final Presentations**