

DREAMING, MAPPING, LIVING: THE CITY IN THE KOREAN IMAGINATION

Global Seminar, Summer 2010

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This seminar will introduce students to the rich living archives of cities in Korea. Centered in the dense metropolis of Seoul, but radiating out to ancient sites like Kyongju and bustling ports such as Pusan, the course traces the transformations of Korean cities from the late-Chosŏn period through the early years of the twenty-first century, focusing on the sharp intellectual contests waged over their (re)construction and (re)imagination. Writers, filmmakers and digital programmers have captured the protean and shifting life of Korean cities, imagining them variously as sites of utopian harmony and nihilistic alienation, bureaucratic control and underground subversion. These official, quasi- and non-official visions in turn inform the living experience of cities, drawing a map of the past and a dream of the future onto everyday life. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, this seminar will ask students to consider a wide variety of issues that pertain to the city: the uses and abuses of the past; the meaning and function of modern infrastructure and architecture; the encoding of class, gender and ethnic stratifications in urban planning; the psychic and affective experience of city life; the significance and impact of creative arts within and about the city. Students will be encouraged to regularly explore the cities' historic vestiges and contemporary conflicts through their lived experiences in Seoul as well as through exploratory trips throughout Korea. Shorter field trips will bring students to "satellite" cities in close proximity to Seoul, such as Inch'on, an industrial port with one of the oldest surviving Chinese ethnic enclaves, and Sangam, a newer master planned suburb targeted primarily at upper middle-class families. Longer field trips will explore cities of Kyongju and Pusan. Guest lectures by local specialists in architecture, colonial history, and mass culture, as well as special visits by writers and filmmakers will enhance and supplement seminar meetings. The core of the seminar will be the daily resonance between the formal and rigorous instruction of the classroom and the direct and visceral experience of the cities themselves.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This seminar will run for six weeks (dates to be determined), meeting four days a week, Monday through Thursday from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M. for morning sessions and from 1 PM to 2:30 PM for the afternoon sessions. Seminars will be lead by one of the two instructors, with a number of guest-lectures by Korean scholars and filmmakers. In the afternoon sessions, we will visit local sites and screen films.

In addition to the regular seminar sessions, students will be taking Korean language classes, Monday through Thursday between 9 A.M. and 10 A.M. While the language classes are designed for the acquisition of basic language skills, special accommodations will be arranged for those students who have taken Korean language courses at Princeton or those with prior knowledge of Korean.

Students will be participating in community service volunteering program (site to be determined) at least one afternoon per week, with the option of volunteering more hours.

Students will be encouraged to engage and explore the cities, as well as fully experiencing the student life available on campus of our host institution. A small number of students from the host institution will join the seminar and all related events, which will provide additional opportunity for interaction and exchange.

Course Requirements:

Seminar attendance and participation:	30%
Weekly Reading and Field Reports:	20%
Mid-Term Exam:	25%
Final Exam:	25%

All students will be required to read Bruce Cummings' *Korea's Place in the Sun* (W.W. Norton, 2005) prior to arriving in Seoul. Additional reading list for background materials will be available upon request.

* A half-day tour of Seoul will be conducted prior to the first day of class.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

<Schedule and Readings may change at the discretion of the instructors>

PART I

WEEK 1

Session 1 INTRODUCTION

- Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta, Bernal Diaz, and Albrecht Durer, "First-Person Accounts of Great Cities of the Medieval and Early Modern World," in Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout, eds., *The City Reader* (Routledge, 2003)
- Bruce Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun* (WW Norton, 2005)

Session 2 Creating the Capital: Seoul (*Hanyang*) during Chosŏn dynasty

- Gari Ledyard, "Cartography in Korea," in J.B. Harley and David Woodward, eds., *The History of Cartography, Vol. Two, Book Two* (University of Chicago Press, 1994), pp. 235-345.
- Peter Lee, ed., *Sources of Korean Tradition, Vol. One* (Columbia University Press, 1996), short excerpts.
- Qinghua Guo, *Chinese Architecture and Planning Ideas, Methods, Techniques* (Menges, 2005), Ch. 13 ("The urban character of Seoul: Chinese perspectives on Choson planning history")
- Kim Dong Uk, "The City and Architecture of Seoul in Late Choson Period," *Korea Journal* vol. 34, no. 3 (Autumn, 1994), pp. 54-68

Recommended Reading:

- Nancy Steinhardt, *Chinese Imperial City Planning* (University of Hawaii Press, 1999), Ch. 5 ("Buildings of the Tang Capital") & Ch. 8 ("Beijing in Ming Times")

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* Visits to Kyungbok Palace / Ch'angdŏk Palace

Session 3 Buildings and the Structure of the Pre-Modern City

- William Whyte, "How do Buildings Mean? Some Issues of Interpretation in the History of Architecture," *History and Theory*, 45 (May 2006), 153-177
- James McClain, John Merriman, and Ugawa Kaoru, eds., *Edo and Paris: Urban Life and the State in the Early Modern Era* (Cornell University Press, 1994), Ch.1
- Lee, eds., *Sources of Korean Tradition*, excerpts.

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Guest Lecture by Prof. Ahn Chang-mo (Architecture, Kyŏnggi University)

– to be confirmed

Session 4 Controlled Space

- TBA

WEEK 2

Session 5 Representing early modern Seoul – Tales of travel and exploration

- Late 19th century Japanese travel brochures
- Isabella Bishop, *Korea and Her Neighbors* (1897)
- *The Korean Repository* (1895-1898) – “Place of Interests in Seoul”

Session 6 Colonial Space I

- Akbar Abbas, “Building Hong Kong: From Migrancy to Disappearance,” in Stephen Cairns, ed., *Drifting : Architecture and Migrancy* (London ; New York: Routledge, 2004)
- Todd Henry, “Respatializing Chosŏn’s Royal Capital: The Politics of Japanese Urban Reform in colonial Seoul, 1905-1919,” in *Sightings: Critical Approaches to Korean Geography* (University of Hawaii Press, 2007)

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Visits to Seoul Train Station / Korean National Bank/ Seodaemun Prison

Session 7 Colonial Space II

- Todd Henry, “Assimilation from a Distance: Shintō Shrines, Festival Celebrations, and the Limits of “Japanization” in Colonial Korea, 1910-37” (Blackboard)

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Guest Lecture by Prof. Todd Henry (History, UCSD)

Visits to Former colonial shrine sites (Namsan Shrine, now Lila School; Chosen Shrine, now Botanical Garden and Ahn Museum; Keijo Shrine, now Namsan Orphanage)

Session 8 Bound in History – Issues of Preservation and Memorialization

- Robert Oppenheim, *Kyŏngju Things* (University of Michigan Press, 2008)
- Jong-Heon Jin, “Demolishing Colony: The Demolition of the Old Government-General Building of Chosŏn,” in *Sightings*

Friday-Saturday: Trip to Kyŏngju

WEEK 3

Session 9 Trauma and Memory: Living with the Memory of Korean War

- “Still Present Past”, www.stillpresentpasts.org
- Additional Readings TBA
- Film: Dir. Yu Hyun-mok, “The Aimless Bullet” (1960)

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Visits to War Memorial / Museum in Yongsan

Session 10 Kwangju

- Lewis, *Laying Claim to the Memory of May* (University of Hawaii Press, 2002)
- Gi-wook Shin and Kyung Moon Hwang, eds., *Contentious Kwangju: The May 18 Uprising in Korea's Past and Present* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2003)
- Jae-Eui Lee, *Kwangju Diary: Beyond Death, Beyond the Darkness of Age* (University of California Press, 1999), excerpts.
- Film: *Peppermint Candy*

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Guest Lecture TBA

Session 11 American Towns in Korea – Military Bases and “Texas towns”

- Moon, *Sex Among Allies* (Columbia University Press, 1997)
- Sallie Yea, “Marginality, *Transgression*, and Transnational Identity Negotiations in Korea's Kijich' on” in *Sightings*

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Visits to Yongsan U.S. Military Base/ Itaewon & Uijöngbu

Session 12 **Midterm Exam**

PART II

WEEK 4

Session 13 The Flaneur; or Thinking the Utopian City

- Charles Baudelaire, “The Painter of Modern Life”
- David Harvey, *Paris: Capital of Modernity* (excerpts)
- LeCorbusier, *Toward an Architecture* (excerpts)
- Maeda Ai, “Utopia of the Prisonhouse”

Session 14 Seoul (*Kyongsöng/Keijö*) in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction

- Burton Holmes, 1903 film footage
- Pages of *The Independent*
- Early 1940s radio broadcasts, popular military songs
- Michael Robinson, “Broadcasting in Korea: 1924-1937”
- American missionary photography

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Film screening: Yang Chu-nam, *Sweet Dream* (1937)

Session 15 Writing In and Of Colony and Metropole

* Guest Lecture: Hwang Ho-duk (Korean Literature, Sungkyunkwan University)

- Yi Kwang-su, *Heartlessness* (excerpts)

- Yi Sang, “Wings” and “Tokyo”
- Pak T’ae-won, “Riverside Sketches”
- Yi T’ae-jun, “Moonlight”
- Kim Sa-ryang, “Into the Light”

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Afternoon visit to Yi T’ae-jun’s Seoul residence

Session 16 Recording War and Reconstruction

- Ahn Jung-hyo, *White Badge* (excerpts)
- Yi Pom-son, “The Stray Bullet”
- Film excerpts: Ted Conant, “Children in Crisis”

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Film screening: Kang Je-gyu, *Taegukgi: Brotherhood of War*

Friday and Saturday: Trip to **Pusan**

WEEK 5

Session 17 The Urban Center of Postcolonial Developmentalism

* Guest lecture, Shin Hyong-gi (Korean Literature, Yonsei University)

- Park Chung Hee, *Our Nation’s Path* (excerpts)
- Kim Seung-ok, “Seoul: Winter 1964”

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Afternoon tours of Ch’onggyech’on (Restored public stream), Kwanghwamun (restored public square), Sangam (“New digital media city”)

Session 18 Discipline and Order: Redeveloping Seoul

- David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity* (excerpts)
- Cho Se-hui, *The Dwarf* (excerpts)
- “Korea: Hub of Asia,” “Hi Seoul” and other promotional literature

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Film screening: Kim Tong-won, *Sanggyedong Olympics*

Guest visit: Director Kim Tong-won

Session 19 Inch’ŏn, Ilsan, Uijongbu: Geographic and Social Peripheries

- Chong-hui, “Chinese Street”
- Jin-Kyung Lee, “Migrant Laborers in Seoul”
- Kim Eun-mee, “Seoul as a Global City with Ethnic Villages”
- Minu (deported Nepalese singer) scandal

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Film screening: Yi Chae-yong, *Take Care of My Cat*

Session 20 Play

- Jurgen Habermas, “The Public Sphere”
- Chang P’il-hwa, “Cyberspace and Sexuality”
- Yi Mu-yong, “The Landscape of Club Culture and Identity Politics”

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Film screening: Chang Son-u, *Timeless, Bottomless, Bad Movie*

Friday visits to Inch'on (local tours) and Ansan (Migrants Community Service Center)

WEEK 6

Session 21 Borderless Centers

- Saskia Sassen, “Impact of New Technologies and Globalization on Cities”
- Cho Myung-rae, “Flexible Sociality and the Postmodernity of Seoul”
- Kim Yong-ha, *I Have the Right to Destroy Myself*

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Visits to Kuro-dong social welfare center and Chongdam-dong independent fashion designer

Session 22 Navigating Localities

- Mark Poster, *De City Center* (excerpts)
- Pak Min-gyu, “Raccoon World”
- Seoul Fringe Network website (www.seoulfringe.net)

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- Film screening: Hong Sang-su, *The Turning Gate*

Session 23 Special class on art/alternative space/collectivities at Heyri

- Tour of art galleries, workshops, and cafes at the Hyeri Art Valley

Session 24 **Final Exam**