

## EAST478: Genre and Gender in Korean Film and Literature

### **General Information**

Term and Year: Fall 2025

Course pre-requisite(s): None

Number of Credits: 3

### **Instructor Information**

Name and Title: Kimberly Chung, Assistant Professor

Email: kimberly.chung2@mcgill.ca

Office location: 680 Sherbrooke, Room 274

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

### **Communication Plan**

Please email the instructor with any course content related questions. Responses may take up to 48 hours during the week, exclusive of weekends.

### **Course Overview**

This course introduces students to genre studies through the study of relationships between Korean film and literature. The purpose of this course is to develop attention to the ways film narrative and written narratives can differently and similarly express a story through the study of works connected across the two forms by genre. Moving away from the study of film adaptations of literature to understand intermedial narratives, each film (and occasionally other media) instead will be coupled with a literary work that deals with similar themes, topics, narratives, and/or genre codes. Through the comparative study of genres across different mediums, this course will study how genres have evolved in Korean modern and contemporary cultures, work culturally and economically as popular narratives, and how principles of genre study are challenged, redefined, and/or reinforced. While this course will present students with a range of methods of analysis for Korean film and literature, a particular focus will be on the analysis of gender in the examination of genre. This approach will allow students to explore Korean media, film, and literature as a site where gender is constantly under reinvention, creation, and deconstruction.

This course will be in discussion format. Reading and/or viewing assignments are due on the date that they appear on the course schedule.

No previous knowledge of East Asian languages is required. All media and literature will be shown or given with subtitles or in translation.

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course:

- 1) students will learn a range of contemporary genres popular in literature and film.
- 2) students will be introduced to methods of analysis to understand the way film and literary genres work culturally and economically.
- 3) by parsing through the case studies introduced in the course, students will be able to converse with an existing scholarly discussion in genre studies, will synthesize and utilize this field of knowledge as secondary sources in their own research, and bring this framework into their own analysis of contemporary fluctuations in film and literary genres.

### **Required Course Materials**

All readings are available on mycourses. Students are required to participate actively in class discussions. Active participation requires completing all assigned readings before coming to class and being prepared to contribute to class discussion. Reading assignments are due on the date that they appear on the course schedule.

### **Attendance**

Attendance in this course is required. Students are permitted 1 absence without penalty. More than 1 absences will affect the student's attendance mark (each absence will result in a reduction of 2% of total grade). There will be no distinction in the course between "excused" and "unexcused" absences except in exceptional circumstances.

### **Evaluation:**

Course Engagement:	15% (rubric provided on MyCourses)
Discussion Leading:	10%
Genre Study Response (four times by date on syllabus):	30%
Research Proposal (March 20):	5%
Final Research Paper (April 18):	40%

### **Course Engagement**

As this is a humanities course, engagement is considered an important part of learning and training. Being an engaged listener, active learner, effective communicator, and collaborative student are some of the skills that are being highlighted through the evaluation of engagement. This class is a space for one to develop and hone these foundational skills. A detailed rubric on how engagement is evaluated will be provided on mycourses under "Content." If this poses any difficulties for a student, please communicate with the instructor.

### **Discussion Leading**

Students are required to lead discussion once during the semester. Leading a class discussion is a difficult but important skill to develop during your academic career. You will be able to choose the text that you would like to discuss after the first week of class. Discussions will be held on non-film/media viewing days. You should plan to lead discussion for 15 minutes. It is recommended that you begin with a close reading of the academic secondary source then lead into specific points and questions, but you are also welcome to use your own approaches for guiding the audience. You are welcome to consult with me during office hours about discussion leading.

### **Genre Study Response Papers**

There are four response papers that are due at four different times during the semester. Please refer to the syllabus for the due dates. Detailed instructions will be given on mycourses about the possible readings/primary media and literature for these responses. Response papers should be a minimum of three paragraphs. Response Papers should be submitted on mycourses under "Assignments" by the end of the day that they are due.

### **Research Paper Proposal**

A paragraph that describes your research question and a preliminary list of primary and secondary sources for your proposed topic. Students will be given points for submitting the

proposal. Students should adhere to the research question proposed for the final research paper.

### Final Research Paper

Students will submit an approximately 10-page research paper connecting independent primary source research to one or more of the topics introduced in the course. A detailed rubric will be provided on mycourses.

### Late Assignment Policy

No extensions will be given for assignments. Late assignments are subject to a penalty of 3% per day, including weekends. Exceptions are only made in exceptional circumstances and students should contact the instructor *in well advance of the due date* with appropriate documentation (ie. medical note)

### Language of Assignment Submission

“In accord with McGill University’s [Charter of Students’ Rights](#), students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.” (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009)

« Conformément à la [Charte des droits de l’étudiant](#) de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté, sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue. » (Énoncé approuvé par le Sénat le 21 janvier 2009)

### Reread Requests

Requests for re-read of quizzes or exams must be made within 10 working days after the graded assignment has been made available to the student. Requests should be made according to the "Reread Policy of the Department of East Asian Studies" available on mycourses under "Content."

### Academic Integrity

*"McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information)."*

*"L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest))."*

### Statement on the Use of Generative AI Tools

If you choose to use generative AI tools as a learning aid on any of the EAST478 assignments in any way, it is expected that the AI generative tool be properly referenced and accompanied with a description outlining why the AI writing tool was used/for what purpose, and how it enhanced your assignment. Failure to include a proper reference and description will be considered a breach of academic integrity. If you have any questions about the use of generative AI tools, please reach out to your instructor for clarification.

**\*\***In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of McGill University, assessment tasks in a course are subject to change, provided students are sent adequate and timely communications regarding the change**\*\***

**Note on Copyright**

Course content created by instructors is considered the instructors' intellectual property, it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold without prior written consent.

Intellectual property is protected under Canada's copyright laws and copyright infringements are treated as civil – intellectual property disputes.

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