EAST 491 East Asian Languages and Literatures 1: Modern and Contemporary Fiction by Korean Women Writers

Class Meetings: Monday, Wednesday 11:35 am to 12:55 pm  
Location: SH688 491

Instructor: Kimberly Chung (kimberly.chung2@mcgill.ca)  
Office location: 688 Sherbrooke, Room 274  
Office hours: Thursdays 10:00-12:00 online by appointment

Course Objectives

From the beginning of the 20th century, women writers in Korea, and South Korea, have contributed to the development of literature, social movements and new cultural forms. This course examines literary works from the category of "women's writing," a label applied to these works by others or by themselves. This course will unpack the conventions and styles of women writers and the way these women used language to describe their experiences. Through a focus on fiction, this course will promote a cultural literacy about Korea through women's literary representation of the social, cultural and historical contexts of the 20th and 21st century and a familiarity with a range of women writers from diverse time periods and class backgrounds. Students will also utilize appropriate critical frameworks (gender, sex, feminism) to interpret these texts and improve their critical thinking of textual standards. An equal methodological emphasis will be placed on the historicity of texts and narratological quality through close readings.

Course Methodology

This course will be in discussion format. Reading assignments are due on the date that they appear on the course schedule. No previous knowledge of Korean is required. All literary works are in English translation.

Readings and Course Texts
The following texts are available at the McGill Bookstore for this course:

Nam-Joo Cho, *Kim Ji-Young, Born 1982*  
Han Kang, *The Vegetarian*  
Wan-so Pak, *The Naked Tree*  
Kyung-sook Shin, *I'll Be Right There*

Evaluation:

**Attendance/Class Participation:** 15%  
Your contribution to class includes having read the materials in preparation of an engaged discussion.

**Reading Response Blog Post:** 25%  
The course blog on mycourses allows us to extend discussion through a semi-formal web interface that is only available to students enrolled in the course. Twice a week on Monday and Wednesday
9am before class, you will post a reflection on the class reading and contribute comments to at least two classmate posts a week.

**Critical Article Presentation** 15%
Choose one scholarly/critical article to present on that relates to the fiction/fictions we have read. Summarize the aims, keywords/key concepts, how it relates to the narratives we read, explain the article's argument, and suggest how this scholarly source assists our understanding of the fiction.

**Final Paper Proposal (500 words)** 10%

**Final Paper (10-12 pages):** 35%
an original research paper on one (or more) of the assigned fictional texts that incorporates critical scholarship.

**Course Policies:**
**Attendance:**
Students are permitted 2 absences without penalty. Please do not contact the instructor to explain absences, except in the event of sustained and extenuating circumstances. Absences in excess of 2 will affect the student's attendance mark. For Covid-19 related absences, please refer below.

**COVID-19:**
In the case of COVID-19, please follow McGill health guidelines: https://www.mcgill.ca/coronavirus/health-guidelines. Professor Chung will work with the Office of the Dean of Students to accommodate the situation accordingly.

**Academic Honesty:**
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 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).

**Disability Accommodation:**
Students who require disability accommodations should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at McGill, to discuss the ways that OSD Student Services may provide assistance: http://www.mcgill.ca/osd/. The OSD will then contact Professor Chung to discuss disability accommodations.

* In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.
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).
**In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.**