Modern and Contemporary Korean Art

Professor Sunglim Kim
Lectures: M and W 6:30–8:20 PM (EST)
Office Hours: by appointment via Zoom
Zoom meeting ID: 603 636 2867
Contact Information: sunglim.kim@dartmouth.edu or noul98@gmail.com

Course Description

This course examines the art and culture of Korea from the end of the 19th century through the early 21st century. During this period Korea experienced the fall of its last dynasty (500-years-long), annexation to Japan, the Korean war, division into two Koreas, democratization, and internationalization/globalization. The class will explore how visual art, including paintings, ceramics, architecture, photographs, posters, and film, reflected and expressed the political, socio-economic, and cultural changes and concerns of each period, in both South and North Korea.

Readings:


Readings consist of excerpts from books (above), journals, and exhibition catalogues. Some of the assigned readings come from Korean journals published in English. Written by some of Korea’s leading scholars, these articles provide Korean perspectives on Korean history and culture. All required readings will be provided as downloadable PDF files located on the course Canvas site.

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance (10%) and Participation in Discussion (10%): All the classes will be delivered synchronously via Zoom. Class attendance is mandatory, and only one absence without advance notice is allowed. Two unpermitted absences will lower your grade by a third of a grade. If you won’t be able to make it or have technical difficulties, please let me know A.S.A.P. so alternative arrangements can be made. Active participation in discussion is strongly encouraged and pop quizzes (pass/not pass) will be given frequently to verify attendance and encourage you to keep current in your readings and class materials.
Response papers and Assigned works (30 %): Students are expected to post response papers (1% each) on assigned readings and a couple of questions (1/2 page on each article, single-spaced, 12-point font) on Canvas. Each paper is due by 9 PM (EST) the day before class. Also, students will be asked to upload occasional assigned works (1% each) such as self-introduction in PPTX with narration, visual analysis paper, and comments on other students’ responses.

Exam (20 %): There will be two exams (10% each). The exams will consist of multiple choice, true or false, slide identifications with short-answers, and/or short essays. Questions will focus on facts and topics covered in class. Your responses, however, should also draw on the readings.

Research paper (20 %) and presentation & “exit” exam (10%): You will write a research paper on an artist and his/her artwork. The writing consists of two stages. First you will choose one or two image(s) by a modern or contemporary Korean artist. Before you start writing, please consult with me. Once approved, write a one-page, single-spaced, visual description and analysis of the artwork, and post your image and analysis on canvas; this post will be followed by my feedbacks and classmates’ comments. The second paper builds on the first. To write the second paper, you will conduct research in the library and/or through online scholarly sources or through interviewing the artist (via e-mail or phone) to build on the visual analysis in your first paper. The final paper will combine your formal analysis with contextual information that you uncovered through research. Your paper must reflect the contents of our lectures and discussions, and your own research, critical thinking, and analysis. The final paper should be five pages, single-spaced, and requires proper citations and bibliography. You will give a 15-minute presentation in week 9 or 10. Also, you will submit three multiple-choice questions regarding your presentation to me in advance. Your questions will all be compiled into an “exit” exam, which students will take to wrap up the research paper session. The final paper is due on Friday, Nov. 20. Please upload your paper on Canvas under Discussion.

**Grading Scale:**

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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>A:</td>
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<td>A-:</td>
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<td>B+:</td>
<td>89.9–87</td>
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<td>B:</td>
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**Guidance on Class Participation**
Come to class prepared (e.g., complete the assigned response), be respectful of others, engage in thoughtful conversation about the material and discussion topics, and encourage others to contribute.

*Please keep your microphone muted unless you are talking.* This will limit intrusions of local environmental noise and audio feedback.

If you have the necessary equipment and internet access to do so, *please turn on your video during class.* This will make it easier to track who is talking and help us maintain a sense of community at a distance.

*Whenever possible, please try to limit multi-tasking,* such as scrolling on your phone or navigating out of the Zoom call and into other programs or windows, unless it is directly relevant to what we’re doing in class.

When you are unable to join live class Zoom meetings, please talk to me as soon as possible. I’ll assign additional work, such as watching the recorded class session and then posting your reflections on Canvas.

**Honor Principle**

All academic activities will be based on student honor. Students should re-familiarize themselves with the Academic Honor Principle on the Dartmouth website: [http://www.dartmouth.edu/~uja/honor/students.html](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~uja/honor/students.html)

Every work submitted for this course must be the independent work of the enrolled student. For more information about plagiarism and how to avoid it, please see: [www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/sources](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/sources).

**Student Accessibility Needs**

Students with disabilities who may need disability-related academic adjustments and services for this course are encouraged to contact me privately as early in the term as possible. Students requiring disability-related academic adjustments and services must consult the Student Accessibility Services office (Carson Hall 125, 603-646-9900 Student.Accessibility.Services@Dartmouth.edu). Once SAS has authorized services, students must show the originally signed SAS Services and Consent Form and/or a letter on SAS letterhead to me. As a first step, if you have questions about whether you qualify to receive academic adjustments and services, you should contact the SAS office. All inquiries and discussions will remain confidential.

**Student Wellness**
We recognize that the academic environment at Dartmouth is challenging, that our terms are intensive, and that classes are not the only demanding part of your life. There are a number of resources available to you on campus to support your wellness, including: your undergraduate dean (603-646-2243) (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~upperde/), Counseling and Human Development (603-646-9442) (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~chd/), and the Student Wellness Center (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~healthed/). We encourage you to reach out to the Dartmouth Health Service (603-646-9400 or Secure Message in DartHub), as well. Please come speak with me in order to take care of yourself throughout the term.

**Religious Observances**

Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during this academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with me before the end of the second week of the term to discuss appropriate accommodations.

**Academic Skills Center** (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/)

The Academic Skills Center (603-646-2014) is open to the entire Dartmouth Community. Here are some common reasons why you might visit the ASC:

**The Student Center for Research, Writing, and Information Technology**

(RWiT: http://writing-speech.dartmouth.edu/learning/support-writing-research-and-composing-technology/rwit) Located in Berry 183, RWiT is a free service dedicated to helping members of the Dartmouth community develop more effective strategies for generating and organizing their ideas, finding and evaluating research sources, and presenting and revising compositions in a variety of media. Through informal dialogue, RWiT tutors assist writers in developing better compositions and more effective composing strategies. A collaboration between the Institute for Writing and Rhetoric, the Library, and Academic Computing, RWiT brings together faculty, administrators, staff, and students to focus on the art and science of composition.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1: The Beginning of Modern Art in Korea**

September 14 (M): Introduction to class and Korea’s geographical and historical background
September 16 (W): Korean Art Before the Japanese Colonial Period

**Week 2: World Expositions**
September 21 (M): The Power of Expositions

September 23 (W): Art and Its Display in Early Modern Korea

**Week 3: Korean Artists in the Colonial Period (1910–1945)**
September 28 (M): Painters of the Colonial Period II
Film *Assasination* (2015) streamed and Discussion

September 30 (W): Art and Women in the 1920s

**Week 4: Korean Artists in the Colonial Period (1930s)**
October 5 (M): Socialist Realism

October 7 (W): Art and the State

**Week 5: Exam 1 and Art after the Korean War**
October 12 (M): Exam 1

October 14 (W): Abstract Paintings

**Week 6: Korean Art in 1980s and 1990s**
October 19 (M): Minjung Art
Film A Taxi Driver (2017) and Discussion

October 21 (W): Beginning of Korean Contemporary Art

**Week 7: Art of the women, by the women, and for the women**
October 26 (M): Women Artists in the 20th Century.

October 28 (W): Contemporary Korean Artists in the 2000s

**Week 8: Exam 2 and Contemporary Korean Artists in the 2000s**
November 2 (M): Exam 2
Film Parasite (2019) and Discussion

November 4 (W): Korean Culture in Five Color (Seattle Asian Art Museum lecture)

**Week 9: Student Presentations**
November 9 (M): Research Consultation (Individual Zoom meetings)
November 11 (W): Student Presentations (20 minutes each)
Week 10: Wrap-up
November 16 (M): Wrap-up class
November 20 (F): Research paper due and online “exit” exam