

Studies in World Literature (ENGL4360/5370)

Instructor: Dr. June Oh
Email: joh@uttyler.edu
Class Meeting: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00pm to 3:20pm
Office: CAS (College of Arts and Sciences) 210
Office Hours: TBD; and by appointment

Course Information

Detailed study of selected themes, literary types, and authors in world literature. Content varies from year to year. May be repeated once for credit when content changes. (Prerequisite: ENGL3308, or permission of the instructor.)

Course Description

What is Korean? Who are Koreans? This course addresses these questions by engaging in various literature of Korea, broadly conceived, that represents the long and rich Korean culture and history. We will approach each work as a window into the history and culture of the period. Students will read various original texts (translated/subtitled in English) starting from Korea's foundational myth (BC2333?), drinking poems of societal elites in the early modern period (18C), to heart-wrenching stories about the sufferings of Koreans during the Japan's colonialization (19C-20C), and pieces on modern Korean desire such as *Sky Castle* (2019) and/or *Squid Game* (2021). Additionally, this course will engage with a new literary genre/format called *Webtoon*, a digitally-native comics, in order to help students develop an understanding of literary genres and techniques of both the traditional and new. Students will turn in multiple webtoon cuts throughout the semester and compose one final piece of adaptation at the end.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Develop a historically-situated knowledge about Korean culture and society.
2. Articulate how various sociocultural and historical background enables new or different ways of writing about life experiences in literature.
3. Create a sophisticated argument about a literary text through close-reading and analytical writing skill.
4. Propose, revise, and compose a digital adaptation piece by evaluating the roles and meanings of various literary techniques.

Required Texts, Technology, and Course Materials

1. Students are required to have access to the following texts in whatever way convenient for them. These are available through university bookstore as well.
 - a. Scott McCloud, *Understanding Comics* (1994)
 - b. Keum Suk Gendry-Kim, *The Grass* (2019)

- c. Han Kang, *Human Acts* (2014)
 - d. Cho Nam-ju, *Kim Ji-young, Born 1982* (2016)
2. Additional readings will be available on Canvas.
 3. An access to Netflix is also required.
 4. Students will also likely need to purchase a software such as ProCreate.
 5. Many of our texts include offensive, controversial topics and possibly traumatic contents. Violence, suicide, racism, explicit sexual content, and derogatory terms for humanly differences will appear. If you anticipate any serious issues reading such contents, please consult with me during the first week of the course.

Important Notes Technology

1. An access to a relatively new laptops and high-speed internet is required.
2. Additionally, **an access to a tablet** is preferable although not required.
3. Students should regularly check Canvas (announcement, course schedule, assignments, modules, etc.) and emails. Contact me as soon as possible if you have issues or anticipate problems with technology.

For a tutorial on announcements, [click here](#). To manage notifications, click on “Canvas notifications” in the blue box at the top of the page. For help in resetting notifications, click on the help button on the left-hand side of your UTT Canvas home page (the question mark in a circle) and call the “Canvas Support Hotline (Students).”

Course Grade

Component		Points
Reflections	P/reflection	5 points
	Reflection	5 points
The Basics	Class Facilitation	10 points
	Discussion Questions	10 points
	Close Reading Analysis	20 points
Semester Project	Webtoon Adaptation	25 points
	Research Paper	25 points
TOTAL		100 points

Grade Scale

A	90 to	100	points
B	80 to	89	points
C	70 to	79	points
D	60 to	69	points
F	0 to	59	points

Minimum Requirement to Earn a C in the Class

To earn a C or above in the class, students must earn a C or above **on all components**. A grade of D or F on XX will result in the grade for the class being no higher than a D.

Syllabus Changes

Per the UTT Syllabus Policy: “The information contained in the syllabus, other than the grading criteria and absence and make-up policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice as long as the change is without prejudice to the students.”

Course Calendar

[Link to a detailed course schedule](#) (external link to Google Doc)

Important Dates

1/23	Census date
3/17	Research paper due
3/23	Last day to withdraw
4/24	Final product due

Major Assignments

All writings done in this class are public and can be publicly shared.

REFLECTIONS

- At the start of the semester, students will turn in a p/reflection letter which will be used as the resource for their final Reflection.
- On the final week of the semester, students will write a reflection letter that looks back to their semester informed by their p/reflection answers.

THE BASICS

Class Facilitation

- Students will select a week of their interest and collaborate in groups (3-4 members) to facilitate a class. More information on class facilitation is on Canvas. Sign up [here](#).

Discussion Questions

- Students will come with two discussion questions each week. These questions should be critical in its nature showing student’s understanding of the material, appreciation of the literary aesthetics, and critical thinking skills. These questions can be historical, critical, and analytical in nature.
- Each question should be able to reference the specific moment of the text (i.e., based on close reading).
- Students will turn in the questions on Canvas 12 hours before the class.

Close Reading Analysis

- Students will write one or two short close-reading analysis papers (4 pages).
- These papers will demonstrate students’ understanding of the course materials including reading materials, historical background, ideology, and critical thinking and analytical reading and writing skills.

SEMESTER PROJECT

Webtoon Adaptation

- a. Students will select a piece of Korean literature for Webtoon adaptation. Students will work on this project throughout the course. This will involve writing a proposal, concept art, synopsis with genre rationale and character description, logline, and creating the final product.

Research Paper

- a. Students will conduct research that investigates the history, culture, and/or literature of the specific period of Korean history. This research should be in align with their webtoon adaptation and used as a source and rationale for their design and narrative choices.

Course Policies and Resources

Attendance

Students are expected to **attend all class sessions**. Attendance is not a “portion” of your grade in this course but an absolute requirement for you to succeed in this course. There are **no excused or unexcused absences**.

Students who miss more than THREE weeks’ work (e.g., absence, arriving late or leaving early, missing discussion and/or quiz, etc.) will **automatically fail** the course unless they withdraw by the census date. There are no excused or unexcused absences in this course. See “Standard UT Tyler Syllabus Policies” for information on the census date. If you miss one or two, you will not be penalized. If you miss more than four, each absence will result in a deduction of your final grade (0.25 per absence).

You should contact me as soon as possible if you encounter or foresee any issues that can affect your performance.

Submitting Written Work

To be counted for a grade, written work must be submitted (unless instructed otherwise) as a Word document in the appropriate drop box in Canvas. For a free copy of Microsoft Office, including Word, [click here](#).

For other types of submission such as a digital adaptation, more information will be provided.

Assignments that do not follow the above format, that are emailed, that are submitted to the wrong drop box, or that I cannot open (e.g., zipped files, ios files, damaged files) will receive 0 points.

Academic Dishonesty & Disruptive Behavior

This class has a **Zero Tolerance Policy** for academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in immediate failure of the entire course and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention.

For the UTT definition of “academic dishonesty,” go to the UT Tyler Syllabus Module in the class Canvas shell. Click on “University Policies and Information.” Scroll to the “Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct” section. Click on “Student Conduct and Discipline policy.” Read Section 8-802 “Academic Dishonesty.”

Disruptive behavior will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention and may result in failing the class and/or University sanction. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- hindering other students from working on the tangible learning activities taking place during face-to-face and online class sessions
- talking when the instructor is talking
- repeatedly arriving late and/or leaving early
- using technology for purposes other than working on the tangible learning activities taking place during the class period
- doing something other than working on the tangible learning activities taking place during the class period
- sleeping during class

For the UTT definition of “disruptive behavior,” go to the UT Tyler Syllabus Module in the class Canvas shell. Click on “University Policies and Information.” Scroll to the “Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct” section. Click on “Student Conduct and Discipline policy.” Scroll to Section 8-804 “Certain Other Offenses.” Read item number four “Disruptive Behavior.”

Class Conduct

All students are expected to behave in a respectful manner, both in-person and online. Sensitive topics may be addressed during discussion, and passionate opinions are welcome. However, each student should remain respectful and civil throughout, and avoid using inflammatory language or taking insubordinate action by practicing equitable etiquette/netiquette.

Our texts or our discussion of the texts may include offensive, controversial, and/or uncomfortable topics and contents. Violence, suicide, physical and mental illnesses, racism, sexism, explicit sexual content, and political views may be discussed. If you anticipate issues reading such contents, consult with the instructor during the first week of the course.

A Note on the N-Word and on Safe Spaces: The N-word won’t be used in this class by a person of any race, even if it appears in our texts. This classroom is a safe space. As such, this class will also be free of hate speech regarding sexual orientation, gender expression, race, ability, and socio-economic status or background. Each member of this class is responsible for fostering an environment in which people and their ideas are respected. For the same reasons, students will strive to make remarks that are informed by our material and the history that surrounds it. (Language adapted from Koritha Mitchell’s [class covenant](#).)

In general, adhere to these four tenets, and you’ll be fine: Be kind. Work hard. Think generously. Write critically.

Contacting the instructor

If you have individual questions, you can set up a time to meet either in-person or via Zoom.

To contact me, use UTT email or Canvas messenger. Per the [UTT Email Policy](#), I will not reply to emails sent from non-UTT email addresses.

Emails and Canvas messages should provide a succinct overview of the topic and be written using complete sentences, reasonably correct grammar, and proper structure. In the subject line list the class (ENGL4360), your name, and a topic.

University Policies and Information

Go to our class Canvas for information relating University Policies.

Student Resources

Go to our class Canvas for information relating University Policies.

This syllabus is a product of many generous educators' hard work and support. I give special thanks to UT Tyler's English department faculties and staff and my former colleagues at MSU.