



The Modern Korean Short Story

Course Code			
Class Times	Mon/Wed/Thu 13:00~16:00	Classroom	Bldg
Equivalent Year Level	1	Course Credit	3
Instructor	Charles La Shure	Sessions	1-15
Office	Bldg 1 Room 418	Email	nasuho73@snu.ac.kr

□ Instructor's Profile



Charles La Shure

Assistant Professor, Department of Korean Language and Literature, College of Humanities, Seoul National University

Charles La Shure received his B.A. in English Literature from the State University of New York at Binghamton and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Korean Literature from Seoul National University. He taught Korean-to-English literary translation at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies before joining the faculty at Seoul National University. In addition to his academic work, he also translates Korean literature; his translations include Kim Young-ha's *Black Flower* and Kim Namcheon's *Scenes from the Enlightenment*.

Education

Ph.D. in Korean Literature, 2011, Seoul National University

M.A. in Korean Literature, 2002, Seoul National University

Expertise

Korean literature, Korean folklore, Korean culture

Most Recent Works (English)

- La Shure, Charles (2018, forthcoming). "The Trickster as Transgressor in Traditional Korean Society." *Transgression in Korea: Beyond Resistance and Control*. University of Michigan Press.
- La Shure, Charles (2018). "Building Legends: How Korean *StarCraft* Gamers Came to Dominate the World." *Race and Ethnicity in Digital Culture: Our Changing Traditions, Impressions, and Expressions in a Mediated World*. Praeger.
- La Shure, Charles (2018). "The Tale of Master Yedök." *Premodern Korean Literary Prose: An Anthology*. Columbia University Press.
- La Shure, Charles (2016). "The Clash of Cultures in Kim Namch'ŏn's *Scenes from the Enlightenment*." *Acta Koreana* 19(2), pp. 87-108.



□ Course Information

Course Description	In this class, we will trace the development of the modern Korean short story over the past century. We will be reading important works written during the Japanese colonial period, works that struggled with the devastation of the Korean War and the division of the nation, works that gave voice to the labor and democracy movements in South Korea, and the works of writers blazing new trails in Korean literature today. Students will gain an understanding of the short story's place in the history of Korean literature and an appreciation for how the form has both grown with and contributed to the growth of Korean society and culture.
Course Evaluation	Class participation: 10% Written impressions (see below): 20% Mid-term exam: 35% Final exam: 35% Attendance will be important for keeping up with class. Good attendance and active participation will be reflected in grade
Course Materials	See readings list in course schedule. PDF versions of the short stories to be read and discussed in class will be provided.
Class Policy	Students are expected to read the short stories assigned for each class and submit their written impressions (a 500-word response that may deal with the literary, cultural, historical, or other aspects of the work; <i>not</i> a summary or “book review”) prior to class. Students are also expected to actively participate in class discussions of the works, drawing and expanding on ideas presented in their written impressions but also engaging with the professor and other students on issues presented in the works.
Exams	There are two exams, covering the first and second halves of the semester. These exams will each consist of three essay questions, of which students will choose two to answer. Most importantly, these will be <i>open-book exams</i> . Students will have access to the works discussed and any class notes. As a result, the exams will focus not on successful rote memorization of material, but application of that material to the issues and cogent analysis of the works discussed.



☐ Course Schedule

Session 1 (Wednesday, 27 June): Introduction

- Class introduction
- The roots of Korean literature
- Modern Korean literary history

Session 2 (Thursday, 28 June):

- Hyeon Jingeon – “A Lucky Day”
- Kim Dongin – “Potatoes”

Session 3 (Monday, 2 July):

- Na Dohyang – “The Water Mill”
- Kim Yujeong – “Spring, Spring”

Session 4 (Wednesday, 4 July):

- Gang Gyeongae – “The Underground Village”
- Kim Dongni – “The Shaman Painting”

Session 5 (Thursday, 5 July):

- Yi Sang – “Wings”
- Yi Taejun – “Crows”

Session 6 (Monday, 9 July):

- Yi Hyoseok – “When the Buckwheat Blooms”
- Yeom Sangseop – “Two Bankruptcies”

Session 7 (Wednesday, 11 July):

- Hwang Sunwon – “Cranes”
- Jeon Gwangyong – “Kapitan Ri”

Session 8 (Thursday, 12 July): *Mid-term Exam*

- *Open-book exam (access to works discussed and class notes)*

Session 9 (Monday, 16 July):

- Kim Seungok – “Record of a Journey to Mujin”
- Hwang Seokyeong – “The Road to Sampo”

Session 10 (Wednesday, 18 July):

- Jo Sehui – “A Dwarf Launches a Little Ball”
- Yun Heunggil – “The Man Who Was Left as Nine Pairs of Shoes”

Session 11 (Thursday, 19 July):

- Yi Cheongjun – “Footprints in the Snow”
- Bak Wanseo – “Mother’s Hitching Post”

Session 12 (Monday, 23 July):



- Yi Munyeol – “The Golden Phoenix”
- Shin Gyeonguk – “The Place Where the Harmonium Was”

Session 13 (Wednesday, 25 July):

- Choe Yun – “The Grey Snowman”
- Kim Yeongha – “This Tree of Yours”

Session 14 (Thursday, 26 July):

- Ha Seongnan – “Blooms of Mold”
- Gong Jiyeong – “The Crucible”

Session 15 (Friday, 27 July): *Final Exam*

- *Open-book exam (access to works discussed and class notes)*