

KOR 313
Reading and Translating Korean Poetry
Fall 2022

Instructor: David Krolikoski (dkroli@hawaii.edu)

Class Meetings: TR 9-10:15 am (HOLM 242)

Office Hours: TR 10:30-11:30 pm (MOORE 386)

Course Description

This course is designed as an introduction to modern Korean poetry and translation for students with at least third-year level Korean abilities. During the semester, students will learn how to read and translate Korean poems into English. In the process, they will become familiar with a variety of major poems from the modern and contemporary periods in their original language, many composed in different forms that necessitate a specialized approach.

Students will also read a selection of critical writing about translation. In particular, these writings will help to consider the ethical dimensions of translation and the potential consequences of certain interpretive choices. The course will conclude with a translation project, in which students select a number of poems to translate and write brief translation statements about their approach to the texts they have chosen.

KOR 313 is intended for students interested in deepening their knowledge of Korean literature, language, and translation. By studying poetry, students will expand their knowledge of Korea and become familiar with literary expressions and forms that constitute an important facet of its culture.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of the term, students will be able to:

1. Translate short literary texts from Korean to English.
2. Analyze modern Korean poems, accounting for cultural and linguistic factors.
3. Approach translation not merely as a technical exercise, but as a form of interpretation with potential ethical consequences.
4. Evaluate, critique, and defend translation choices in terms of linguistic, cultural, and ethical issues.
5. Identify and discuss major Korean poets and their work from the modern and contemporary periods.

Course Materials

All course materials will be distributed online through Laulima.

Assignments

Each week, students will be responsible for producing one translation of an assigned poem.

All translations are interpretations. The goal of these assignments is to push students beyond simply parsing the text on a technical level to additionally consider cultural and ethical issues. How might meaning be transformed in translation and what are the potential consequences of these changes? When it is not possible to preserve everything in translation, what elements will be sacrificed and why? Students should thoroughly consider these questions as they translate and be prepared to discuss their decisions during class meetings.

No makeup assignments will be provided.

Midterm Project

For the midterm, students are required to revise four translations that they previously completed for class assignments. In addition to revising these four poems, students will be asked to write a short translation statement for each one, outlining their process and explaining the changes they made from the first to second draft.

Final Project

Students will be responsible for creating a small translation chapbook as their final project. The chapbook will consist of four original translations (around one page each), as well as an introduction and a separate statement for each poem that explains one's translation process and creative choices.

A successful project will:

1. Contain four original translations, bereft of major errors, that demonstrate a thoughtful reading of the original texts.
2. Include a brief introduction that explains one's choice of poems and provides any necessary background information needed to understand their content.
3. Include a translation statement for each poem that explains one's process and the major interpretative choices made for each of the poems. These statements should address how the student has considered linguistic, cultural, and ethical issues in their translations.

Participation

Students are expected to devote their full attention to class proceedings and actively participate during discussion. Points will be deducted from a student's Participation Grade if they are unresponsive.

If for some reason you are unable to fulfill the above obligations, please contact the instructor immediately.

Attendance

Students are to arrive to class on time. Should a student have to miss class due to an illness or other official reason, **the instructor must be contacted in advance of the class meeting in order to be excused.** Exceptions will only be made in emergency circumstances.

Each absence will result in points being deducted from one's Participation Grade. Five absences will result in a zero in this category. **If a student misses eight or more class meetings, they will automatically fail the course.**

Disability Policy

If a student has a disability that requires accommodation, they should inform the instructor as early as possible. Students may also contact the KOKUA Program, the UH Mānoa office for students with disabilities, at (808) 956-7511.

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated and, at minimum, will result in a zero for the assignment in question. Please refer to the Systemwide Student Conduct Code for policies regarding plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty.

Late Policy

Assignments must be completed before the deadline. Work submitted after will be automatically dropped one letter grade. The letter grade will be further dropped once for every additional week the assignment is late. No late final projects will be accepted. **Students with extenuating circumstances such as an unexpected illness may avoid late penalties if they provide substantial evidence of their condition to the instructor.** In these cases, a new deadline will be provided.

Grading

Final grades will be calculated based on the following categories, according to the subsequent scale. **Students should periodically check their grades on Lulima, where they will be posted shortly after an assignment is submitted.**

Participation	20%
Assignments	20%
Midterm	30%
Final Project	30%

A+	100-98
A-	97-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-65
F	Below 65

Basic Needs for UH Students

Basic needs include food and housing, childcare, mental health, financial resources, and transportation, among others. Student basic needs security is critical for ensuring strong academic performance, persistence, graduation, and overall student well-being. If you or someone you know are experiencing basic needs insecurity, please refer to the following website: www.hawaii.edu/student-basic-needs.

Employability and Korean-Language Study

The Department of East Asian Languages & Literatures is committed to providing students with information about the value of the skills and learning they develop in conjunction with Korean language study for future employment. The Department works with the Hawai'i Language Roadmap, a statewide initiative for a multilingual workforce for Hawai'i housed in the College of Arts, Languages and Letters, to provide students with opportunities to learn about marketing their language proficiency to employers (e.g., resume writing, interview training), to meet employers who are hiring for bilingual proficiency, and to credential their language proficiency with the nationally-recognized Global Seal of Bilingual Proficiency, a valued workforce credential. For more information: roadmap@hawaii.edu or visit the Roadmap website at: nflrc.hawaii.edu/languageroadmap.

Schedule

The complete schedule is available on Laulima.