Course Description

This course offers a survey of what I consider to be the most important ethnographic studies of South Korea available in English. While the list is not, of course, comprehensive, it does represent a significant portion of a still somewhat small field. I have chosen additional theoretical and ethnographic (in some cases comparative) works in order to help situate the primary works. Some of the theoretical reading are contemporaneous of the ethnographic work, allowing you -- I hope -- to have a sense of the work in its times. In this sense this course is interested in considering these works in the history of anthropology -- its theory and practice. Other works have been chosen to show more recent or varying ways in which the topic at hand has been treated. The syllabus is largely chronological; April, however, is largely devoted to gender and organized, instead, along class lines. I think that the focus on gender of that section of the course reflects the particular development of the ethnography of Korea (and perhaps my interests as well). One of my primary hopes is that the class will be helpful for you -- that it will allow you to further locate your own work in Korean, or East Asian, or anthropological study.

Books for Purchase (and on reserve at the Education and Social Science Library)


Reader

Available for purchase at Notes-n-Quotes, 344-4433 in Johnstowne Centre. (and on reserve at the Education and Social Science Library)

A second (and much smaller) reader will be available later in the semester as I obtain some last-minute readings.
Assignments

WebBoard Posts: 10/13 x 6 = 60%.
WebBoard is an asynchronous learning network; that is, a place on the Web where you can post your thoughts/responses to me and to your classmates. The posts are to be "posted" by 7 p.m. on the Wednesday before the class. Posts are not papers; they are, however, well-organized and well thought-out responses to the readings assigned for that particular seminar. I anticipate that the post will make attempts to integrate those readings among themselves and also to integrate those readings with the readings and discussions of past weeks. I would imagine that posts will be somewhere between 1 and 3 pages. A part of your WebBoard assignment is reading the posts of your classmates; this is why I have made the deadline earlier on Wednesday evening. By reading (and writing) the posts we will begin the seminar the next day with a number of ideas/responses on the table, so to speak. I will probably begin each class by responding to the posts as-a-group and suggesting directions and problems for that particular day. As you can see, you can choose three weeks for which you will not post -- my thinking here is that there will be weeks when the demands of other classes make it hard to write notes in addition to completing the reading; this in no way dismisses you from reading the materials or from reading your colleague's posts.

Report: 5%
You will note that there are many weeks in which there are readings printed in italics under "Report" at the bottom of the reading list. I have selected these as ethnographic readings which supplement the readings of the day, but I have not made them required because, of course, there are limits to your energy and time. My hope is that each of you will volunteer for one (or more!) of these. Your "report" refers to a short (10-15 minute) presentation to be made at some point during that seminar session. The point of the presentation is to: (1) introduce the work to the class and (2) consider the work in relation to the readings of the day (or of earlier classes). In part this allows all of you to learn, at least briefly, about other ethnographic works out there. With each reading I have indicated where it is available in bold print.

Final Paper: 25%
The Final paper is not a research paper. It is a 10-15 page paper in which you review the Korean ethnographic literature on a particular theme. That is, you cover a particular topic throughout all the literature that we will have surveyed. A theme, a topic -- what does she have in mind, you wonder. You might, for example, take motherhood, or ritual observance, or family structure, or health etc. My hope is that for many of you this will allow you to survey a topic that is closely related to your planned dissertation research. For those of you who are in the middle of planning dissertation research on Korea, you should perhaps best think of this paper as an extended literature review section of a grant application -- that is, the place where you situate your own proposed research in the ethnographic literature. I would like to hear from each of you briefly in class (5-10 minutes) on March 4, March 11 or March 25 as to your thoughts/plans for this paper; this will allow all of us to be thinking about your particular topic as the semester proceeds.

Classroom Participation/Attendance: 10%.
The success of this class depends entirely on your consistent attendance and active participation in class. We are embarking on a semester-long dialogue about the ethnography of Korea. My hope is that week-to-week we will look back on earlier readings so that we all have a sense about this as a literature with particular trends and developments. Although I have read most of the work before, I have never read it in sequence -- and I am really excited/curious about
how it will read this way and how all of you will read it. This is what makes classes fun -- they are unique; that is, the discussion will take shape in one way or another because of you! Don't worry about being smart or impressing one another or me. All I ask is that you read, attend, and share your thoughts.
Weekly Schedule

January 21, Thursday

Introduction

January 28, Thursday


REPORT

Han, Chungnim Choi. 1949. Social Organization of Upper Han Hamlet in Korea. In passim (microfilm) Nancy.

February 4, Thursday


REPORT


February 11, Thursday


**REPORT**


February 18, Thursday


**REPORT**


February 25, Thursday

Kendall, Laurel.1985 (Research:1976) *Shamans, Housewives and Other Restless Spirits*.


March 4, Thursday


*Brief presentations of paper plans I

March 11, Thursday


Lee, June. Reader #2.

REPORT


*Brief presentations of paper plans II

March 25, Thursday

Kendall, Laurel. Getting Married in Korea.


REPORT


*Brief presentations of paper plans III

April 1, Thursday


April 8, Thursday


April 15, Thursday


Cho Haejoang. Reader #2.


April 22, Thursday


April 29, Thursday

