

Literary Studies

1) Korean Literature in the World

This course explores the boundaries of Korean literature in the world. We will examine diasporic phenomena of Korean literature, which crosses cultures, races, time, and space, and also explore how the translation of literary texts has changed the topography of what it means to be “Korean literature.”

2) Border-crossings in Modern Korean Fiction

This course focuses on aspects of border crossing in modern Korean fiction and the discussion includes not only geographical or political borders but also the relationship between languages, social classes, gender, and so on. It will help students develop a sense both of modern Korean literature and its relationship with aspects of Korean society and culture.

3) Premodern Korean Authors

The lives and perspectives of premodern Korean authors were shaped by the times and conditions in which they lived, but the authors, in turn, also formed the features of the literature of both the time in which they lived and of the eras that came after. This course explores authors who represent different periods of premodern Korean literature, both male and female, who wrote in literary Chinese and vernacular Korean. By discovering each author’s life and works, students will learn features of the literature of the periods of Three Kingdoms and Unified Silla, Early and Late Koryŏ, Early and Late Chosŏn, as well as the various genres each author contributed to: hansŏ, biographies, criticism, sosŏl, kasa, etc.

4) Reading Premodern Korean Literature

This course focuses on the reading and understanding of the significant premodern prose and poetry. Readings will include literary and theoretical works. The goals of the course are to introduce features of premodern genres and literary texts and to explore the development of Korean literature from the Three Kingdoms to late Chosŏn. Students will enhance their ability to analyze and evaluate the literary texts and understand them from the perspectives of historical contexts and literary traditions, to engage in independent and guided investigation of set topics.