Topics in Korean Culture:

Seoul

Time: TBA   Location: TBA   Professor Se-Mi Oh   oh43@wisc.edu

Course Description
Seoul – a 600 year-old capital city -- lends itself as the heart of Korea’s modernity and history. For this reason, this course is designed to offer a critical and interdisciplinary survey of the city of Seoul from the Choson dynasty to the contemporary era. As we trace the changes and developments of Seoul, we take the city as the prism into the larger political, economic, social and cultural conditions that enabled its metamorphosis. In doing so, we will examine the spatial fabric, temporal experience, and architectural, visual, and textual imagination of the city, and will ask how human activities and aspirations are inscribed onto the fabric of the city, as well as how the city was utilized for social changes and cultural expressions. Our goal is to explore multidimensional views of Seoul that are from above and below, inside out, monumental and mundane, singular and multiple, and local and global. Class requirements include discussions of the readings and visual materials, as well as a field trip and a research project of specific sites in Seoul.

Prerequisite
There is no prerequisite for this course. No knowledge of Korean language is required; all readings will be in English.

Requirements
Attendance and participation 10%
Schedule of Readings and Meetings

I. Poetics of Urban Archaeology

6/30 (T) Course Introduction
7/1 (W) Research Workshop
7/2 (TH) Group Field Trips

II. The City and History


7/6 (M) Building the Capital, Mapping the City
-- The City Wall
7/7 (T) Monuments for the King
-- The Kyŏngbok Palace, The Ch’angdŏk Palace
7/8 (W) Empire, Colony, the City
-- The Keijo (Seoul) Station
7/9 (TH) The Colonial/Modern City
-- Chŏngdong, Honmachi (Myŏngdong)
7/13 (M) De-Colonizing the City
-- Film: Talking Architecture: City Hall (dir. Jeong Jae-eun, 2013, 106 min)

III. Development and Design


7/14 (T) The Developmentalist State
-- “Goodbye, Elevated Motorway” Exhibit
7/15 (W) Manufacturing the City
-- Yoido, Gangnam
7/16 (TH) Art, Technology, Nature
-- Film: World Design Capital: Seoul 2010 (15 min)
-- Film: e2: Seoul, The Stream of Consciousness (dir. Tad Fettig, 2008, 26 min)
-- Digital Media City
7/20 (M) Memory City
-- Film: The Day When He Arrived (2011, dir. Hong Sang-su, 79 min)

IV. Mapping the City

7/21 (T) Research Workshop: How to Walk in the City
7/22 (W) Psychogeography and Mapping

V. Living in the City

7/23 (TH) “The Apartment Republic”
Film: Haendangdong People (dir. Kim Dong Won, 1994, 31 min)
-- Apartments

7/27 (M) Topography of the Self in the City
Film: Castaway on the Moon (dir. Hae-Jun Lee, 2009, 113 min)

7/28 (T) The Consumer City
-- The Lotte World, Dongdaemun Market

V. Micro Cities
Michael Pettid, Michael. “Cyberspace and a Space for Gays In South Korea”; Cho Myung-rae, “Flexible Sociality”; Eun Mee Kim and Jean S. Kang, “Seoul as a Global City with Ethnic Villages”; Kwang Soo Kim, “The Other Public Space”

7/29 (W) Occupation, Migration, Diversification
-- Itaewon, The “-bang” Culture

7/30 (TH) Culinary Seoul
-- “Majang Meat-Packing District” Exhibit, Ethnic Food and Neighborhoods in Seoul

VI. Art, Technology, Nature

8/3 (M) Film: World Design Capital: Seoul 2010 (15 min)
Film: e2: Seoul, The Stream of Consciousness (dir. Tad Fettig, 2008, 26 min)

8/4 (T) Design Seoul and Smart City

VII. Psychogeography Presentations

8/5 (W) – 8/6 (TH)