

FALL 2018: COM 53A – LITERATURES OF EAST ASIA



Sugiura Hisui, *The Only Subway in the East*, 1927

MWF 10:00-10:50A

217 Olson Hall

CRN 43100

Prerequisite: None.

GE credit (New): Arts & Humanities, Oral Literacy, World Cultures and Writing Experience.

Format: Lecture - 3 hours; Term Paper.

Instructor: Kevin Michael Smith

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TEXTBOOKS:

Joan E. Ericson, *Be a Woman: Hayashi Fumiko and Modern Japanese Women's Literature*

Kobayashi Takiji, *The Crab Cannery Ship and Other Novels of Struggle*

Kang Kyong-ae, *From Wonso Pond: A Korean Novel*

Pak Taewon, *A Day in the Life of Kubo the Novelist*

Andrew David Field, *Mu Shiying: China's Lost Modernist*

Ding Ling and Lu Hsun, *The Power of Weakness*

At the height of Japanese colonial rule in the late 1930s, Korean poet Im Hwa wrote that “in the skies over Asia, even the starlight is darkening.” This course will introduce students to some of the masterworks of East Asian literature in the early 20th century across the Japanese archipelago, colonial Korea, and Republican China. Together we will explore the antagonism between literary modernism and realism as conflicting modes of understanding and representing the vast changes occurring with the onset of capitalist modernity in East Asia. Readings will be supplemented by occasional film viewings and visual materials drawn from art history, popular music, manga, fashion, and propaganda. Assignments will be limited to short reading and film response papers and a final term paper. No previous knowledge of East Asia or Asian languages required. All readings will be in English.

For more information, please contact Amy Lowrey (allowrey@ucdavis.edu) or visit <https://complit.ucdavis.edu/>