

Department of Korean Language and Literature

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What is Korean Language and Literature?

Korean language and literature are the subjects of our department's study. Korean language is the mother tongue of the Korean people and includes the ancient tongue, modern tongue, and dialects. Korean literature means all literary works which have been written in the Korean language, and our study is divided into two areas: Korean modern literature and classics.

Korean Language and Literature at Kyung Hee

The Department of Korean Language and Literature was inaugurated in 1955 when Kyung Hee was officially accredited as a university. The Department of Korean Language and Literature has produced many writers who are leaders in Korean literary circles. Our objectives include training creative scholars and writers who will raise Korean literature to an international level and enhance the value of Hangeul (the Korean alphabet) and the Korean language. In pursuit of those objectives, we document the Korean cultural inheritance written in Korean and Chinese and conduct research into Korean language and literature.

The Department of Korean Language and Literature includes three majors: Korean linguistics, Korean classical literature, and Korean contemporary literature.

Degree Requirements

To receive the Bachelor of Arts degree in Korean Language and Literature, a student must:

- complete a minimum of 130 credit units
- satisfy the general requirements of the School for professional degrees
- complete 30 units of required courses
- complete 69 units of Korean Language and Literature
- complete 31 units stated in the common studies program and humanities/social science electives

Courses

Year 1

Studies of Modern Literature, Introduction to Korean Linguistics

Year 2

Introduction to Korean Literature, Studies in Korean Grammar, Introduction to Folklore Literature, Korean Lexicology, Korean Phonology, Reading from Chinese Literature, Reading in Classical Novels, Research Methodology of Literature, Studies of Modern Poetry, Practical Korean Linguistics, Korean Classical Chinese Literature, Modern Poetry Workout, Practice of Novel Writing

Year 3

A History of the Korean Language, History of Old Korean Literature, History of Modern Korean Literature I, History of Modern Korean Literature II, Modern Korean Drama, Studies of Modern Writers, Studies of Classical Novels, Korean Poetry-Sijo and Kasa, Modern Discourse on Poet, Studies of Modern Literary Criticism, History of Korean Linguistics,

Readings in Korean Linguistics, Studies on Chinese Literature, Study of Korean Folklore, Study on Hyang-Ga & Poetry in Koryo-Gayo, Trends in Literary Thought, Practice in Program-Management, Practice in Book Editing

Year 4

Studies of Korean Morphology and Syntax, Theories of Old Korean Literary Writers, Playwrighting & Play Production, Literary Sociology, Korean Semantics, History of Classical Literary Thoughts, Theories of Ancient Literature, Studies on Post War Korean Literature

Careers and Graduate Destinations

In modern literature, students gain knowledge of Korean literature through reading and analysis of literary works. Students are also provided with opportunities to engage in creative writing. In classics, students learn to analyze and study literary works from ancient times to the so-called “Renaissance” of Korean literary history. In linguistics, students engage in linguistic studies of the Korean language in its various stages of development throughout history, from the ancient tongue to the modern form of today.

There are many future careers open to graduates of our department. After graduation, the majority of students enter the education field in middle or high schools. Furthermore, there are many students who work in media including the press, magazine, newspaper and broadcasting. Also a large number of students go on to graduate school as the next stage of education.

Faculty

Sang-Jin Choi, Ph.D. Kyung Hee University, 1988, Professor, Korean Linguistics, sjch@khu.ac.kr

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