HIEA 180. Topics in Modern Korean History (4)

**Modern Transportation Systems as Visuality and Culture**

Instructor: Han Sang Kim (hsk029@ucsd.edu)

Course Hours and Venue: Thursdays 1:00~3:50PM, HSS3027

Office Hours: Thursdays, 4:10~5:10PM, HSS1109; additional hours by appointment

**Course Description**

The central goal of this colloquium is to introduce students to the cultural history of modern transportation systems and their visual representations in popular culture in Korea. We will use three different historiographical approaches drawn from film studies, the history of technology, and the sociology of space & mobilities to illustrate the mentalité and ideologies of the modern Korean transportation culture. The course will explore the popular imagination and cultural vernacularization of modern transportation systems, including open ports, railways, paved roads, automobiles, and expressways, in 20th-century Korea, with case studies on related films and other visual materials. Students will be encouraged to experience concrete visual materials and compile detailed interpretations of them in a socio-historical context.

**Required Texts:**


* All other readings will be posted on the course website (TED).

**Course Requirements:**

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes. Missing more than two classes will result in a grade penalty.

Reading: Students are expected to come to class having read/viewed the assigned texts and films, ready to actively participate in discussion.
Weekly TED postings: Students are required to post weekly online responses (approximately 300 words) to the assigned materials.

In-class presentation: Each student will deliver a 15-20 minute in-class oral presentation for the week (an introduction to the weekly readings).

Final paper: Students will write a research paper (undergraduates 10 pages; graduate students 15 pages) that uses original primary sources. (must be typed in 12 pt Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins). due March 19.

Grading breakdown:
- Attendance and participation in class: 25%
- Weekly TED postings: 25%
- In-class presentation: 15%
- Final paper: 35%

Course Schedule

January 8 (Week 1) – Introduction: The Historiography of Mobilities


*Film (in-class): Keijo (1941)*

January 15 (Week 2) – World as Picture: Coloniality and Early Cinema


*Film (in-class): early film footage shot by Burton E. Holmes (1903) and others.*

January 22 (Week 3) – Power and the Organization of the Gaze


*Film (in-class): Rehearsal of Emperor Sunjong’s Funeral (1926)

January 29 (Week 4) – Railway and the Colonial Experience of Modern Space and Time


*Film (in-class): Tokyo-Peking: Through Manchoukuo and Tyosen (1939)

February 5 (Week 5) – Colonial Seoul: Early Consumer Culture and Cinema


*Film (in-class): Sweet Dream (1936)

February 12 (Week 6) – War Train and Cinema


*Film: Military Train (1938) ---> reserved at the Media Desk on the first floor of Geisel

February 19 (Week 7) – American “Jeep” Impact


*Film (in-class): The Autobiography of a Jeep (1943), I Am a Truck (1954)

February 26 (Week 8) – Cultural Construction of Expressway


*Film (in-class): Short governmental publicity films in the 1960s and 70s

March 5 (Week 9) – My Car: Private Car Ownership as Propaganda


*Film: Naeirŭi P’alto kangsan [Tomorrow's Scenery of Korea] (1971) --> circulated in class

March 12 (Week 10) – Neoliberal Mobility of an Automated Utopia


*Film: Green Fish (1997) ---> reserved at the Media Desk on the first floor of Geisel

March 19 (Week 11) – Final Paper due (11:59PM).