

Introduction Korean Adoption Studies Independent Study Fall 2015

COURSE OVERVIEW

Within Introduction to Korean Adoption Studies the student will investigate the history and origins of international adoption, examine the racial, ethnic, and cultural identities of adoptees, and explore the growth of the adult adoptee counterpublic and broader adoptee community. This independent study analyzes how concepts of family and belonging are intertwined with understandings of sexuality, race and class. The student will interrogate how members of the adoption triad – birth parents, adoptive parents, and adoptees – find themselves discussed within a global understanding of reproduction. This independent study requires a synthesis of Critical Adoption Studies literature to gain competence in how the intersectionality of race, gender, class, ethnicity, sexuality, and ability shapes international adoption. She will develop and strengthen skills in research, critical thinking, and written communication.

REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS

Bishoff, T. and Rankin, J., Eds. *Seeds from a Silent Tree: An Anthology by Korean Adoptees*. San Diego, CA: Pandal Press, 1997. Print.

Brian, Kristi. *Reframing Transracial Adoption: Adopted Koreans, White Parents, and the Politics of Kinship*. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 2012. Print.

Kim, Eleana J. *Adopted Territory: Transnational Korean Adoptees and the Politics of Belonging*. Durham: Duke UP, 2010. Print.

Pate, Soojin. *From Orphan to Adoptee: U.S. Empire and Genealogies of Korean Adoption*. Minneapolis: Minnesota UP, 2014.

Robinson, K. *A Single Square Picture: A Korean Adoptee's Search for Her Roots*. New York: Berkley Books, 2002.

Trenka, J.J. *The Language of Blood*. St. Paul, MN: Graywolf Press, 2003.

ADDITIONAL READINGS/MEDIA (provided by Prof. McKee)

Kim, Eleana J. "The Origins of Korean Adoption: Cold War Geopolitics and Intimate Diplomacy." Working Paper Series (WP 09-09). U. S.-Korea Institute at SAIS, Johns Hopkins.

Kwon Dobbs, Jennifer, Caitlin Kee, and Kristin R. Pak. "Deporting Adult Adoptees." *Foreign Policy in Focus*. Institute for Policy Studies, 4 July 2012. Web. 22 Jan. 2014.

Lee, Richard M. "The Transracial Adoption Paradox: History, Research, and Counseling Implications of Cultural Socialization." *The Counseling Psychologist* 31.6 (2003): 711–44. Print.

Oh, Arissa H. "A New Kind of Missionary Work: Christians, Christian Americanists, and the Adoption of Korean GI Babies, 1955–1961." *Women's Studies Quarterly* 33.3/4 (2005): 161–88. Print.

Hübinette, T. (2004) "Adopted Koreans and the development of identity in the 'third space.'" *Adoption and Fostering* 28(1): 16-24.

Meier, D. (1999) "Cultural Identity and Place in Adult Korean-American Intercountry Adoptees." *Adoption Quarterly* 3(1): 15-48.

Documentaries: *First Person Plural* (2000); *Resilience* (2009); *In the Matter of Cha Chung Hee* (2010); *akaDan* (2014)

Further readings pertaining to adult adoptee deportations, birth mothers' rights, and activism will be provided by Professor McKee.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **Meetings with Professor McKee (20%):** During these meetings (every Wednesday from 9:30am – 10:30am) the student must be prepared to discuss the assigned readings based on the course schedule. The student should prepare at least four questions to guide our conversation.
- ***From Orphan to Adoptee* Book Review (15%):** This short written assignment should be 800 – 1000 words. Professor McKee will provide detailed directions during the semester.
- ***Adopted Territory* Book Review (15%):** This short written assignment should be 800 – 1000 words. Professor McKee will provide detailed directions during the semester.
- **Memoir and documentary analysis draft (20%):** The student must select at least one memoir and documentary to compare and contrast. This draft should be at least 5-6 pages. The paper should have a clear introduction stating the central argument and the direction you plan to go in your paper. You should situate your argument within any relevant bodies of literature. At least five sources should be included.
- **Memoir and documentary analysis final version (30%):** This paper should be between 10-12 pages in length. This final version should take into account feedback provided by the instructor on your paper draft as well as any comments provided during the mini-conference presentation. At least ten sources should be included.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (8/30/15 – 9/5/15)

- Oh, Arissa H. "A New Kind of Missionary Work: Christians, Christian Americanists, and the Adoption of Korean GI Babies, 1955–1961." *Women's Studies Quarterly* 33.3/4 (2005): 161–88. Print.
- Pate, *From Orphan to Adoptee*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Week 2 (9/6/15 – 9/12/15)

- Pate, *From Orphan to Adoptee*, Chapter 2 – Chapter 4
- View *First Person Plural* (2000)

Week 3 (9/13/15 – 9/19/15)

- Pate, *From Orphan to Adoptee*, Chapter 5 – Epilogue
- View *In the Matter of Cha Chung Hee* (2010)

Week 4 (9/20/15 – 9/26/15)

- Kim, *Adopted Territory*, Introduction – Chapter 2

- View *Resilience* (2009)

Week 5 (9/27/15 – 10/3/15): *From Orphan to Adoptee* Book Review Due

- Kim, *Adopted Territory*, Chapters 3 – 5

Week 6 (10/4/15 – 10/10/15): No Weekly Meeting (We will discuss the readings from this week with the first portion of *A Single Square Picture*)

- Kim, *Adopted Territory*, Chapters 6 – 7
- View *akaDan* (2014)

Week 7 (10/11/15 – 10/17/15)

- Robinson, *A Single Square Picture*

Week 8 (10/18/15 – 10/24/15)

- Robinson, *A Single Square Picture*

Week 9 (10/25/15 – 10/31/15): *Adopted Territory* Book Review Due

- Trenka, *The Language of Blood*

Week 10 (11/1/15 – 11/7/15)

- Trenka, *The Language of Blood*

Week 11 (11/8/15 – 11/14/15)

- Lee, Richard M. “The Transracial Adoption Paradox: History, Research, and Counseling Implications of Cultural Socialization.” *The Counseling Psychologist* 31.6 (2003): 711–44. Print.
- Hübinette, T. (2004) “Adopted Koreans and the development of identity in the ‘third space.’” *Adoption and Fostering* 28(1): 16-24.
- Meier, D. (1999) “Cultural Identity and Place in Adult Korean-American Intercountry Adoptees.” *Adoption Quarterly* 3(1): 15-48.

Week 12 (11/15/15 – 11/21/15)

- Kwon Dobbs, Jennifer, Caitlin Kee, and Kristin R. Pak. “Deporting Adult Adoptees.” *Foreign Policy in Focus*. Institute for Policy Studies, 4 July 2012. Web. 22 Jan. 2014.
- Additional Readings TBD

Week 13 (11/22/15 – 11/28/15): Submit memoir and documentaries draft paper via email, no meeting (Thanksgiving Break)

Week 14 (11/29/15 – 12/5/15): Meet with Professor McKee to discuss memoir and documentaries draft paper

- Bishoff and Rankin, *Seeds from a Silent Tree*

Week 15 (12/6/15 – 12/12/15):

- Bishoff and Rankin, *Seeds from a Silent Tree*

Week 16 (12/13/15 – 12/19/15): Meet with Professor McKee to discuss final memoir and documentaries paper.