Syllabus
Korean Drumming and Creative Music – Big. Music 413 (1 Credit)
Fall, 2016

Wednesday 1:20-3:20PM at World Music Hall
First class meeting & audition: September 7
Class ends on Dec. 7

Course Description:
This course is an experiential, hands-on percussion ensemble with the predominant instrument in Korean music, the two-headed janggo drum. Students will be introduced to traditional folk and court styles as well as creative collaborations with musicians from other cultures. They will learn to play a range of percussion instruments including janggo, barrel drum (buk), and hand gong (kwenggari). The semester will end with a live performance.

Instructor: Jin Hi Kim, jkim14@wesleyan.edu
Teaching Assistants: Tomek Arnold, tarnold@wesleyan.edu

Requirement: one independent studio practice (sign up) per week/every week, two ensemble rehearsals (November 18 and November 30), and a performance (December 1)
Grading policy: attending class, practice, solo, ensemble, creativity,
Absence policy: one time

Rehearsal, Performance, and Final Exam Schedule:
Rehearsal 1: November 18 (Friday) 12:30-3pm in WMH
Rehearsal 2: November 30 (Wednesday) 1:20-3:20pm in Crowell Concert Hall
Performance: December 1, 6pm setup and 7pm performance at Crowell Concert Hall
Final Exam Performance: December 7, a solo on janggo and an ensemble performance
Classroom behavior expectation: Students arrive 10 min. before class begins for preparation and set up. Wash your hands before touching the instruments. You will be asked to take your shoes off and sit on the floor while playing the instruments. You may wear a pair of socks while playing the instruments, because you may use your foot to support the drum position. Be cooperative with the ensemble practice and the group creativity.

Reference materials:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFytra6XpiA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBIUtSthzO8

Instructor:
Visiting Assistant Professor of Music Jin Hi Kim, innovative komungo virtuoso, Guggenheim Fellow in Music Composition, Korean music specialist, has performed as a komungo soloist in her own compositions at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, Smithsonian Freer Gallery of Art, Asia Society, and around the world. She also plays janggo (장고) and dancer’s barrel drum set for her creative work and collaboration.

Kim is known as a pioneer for introducing geomungo (거문고, a Korean fretted board zither, also spelled komungo) to American contemporary music scene through her own cross-cultural chamber and orchestral compositions and her extensive solo work in avant-garde, as well as cross-cultural free improvisation. Kim’s recent works includes a development of komungobot (virtual robotic instrument) and solo performances of the world’s only electric komungo with live interactive MIDI computer system in her large-scale multimedia performance pieces. A retrospective interview about Kim was archived in Oral History of American Music at Yale University Library. Her autobiography was published in Seoul, South Korea. Kim has given lectures about Korean traditional music and her compositional concept ‘Living Tones’ at over 200 universities in the USA including Freeman Artist-In-Residence at Cornell University www.jinhikim.com

History of the course:
Wesleyan Korean Drumming Ensemble is among one of the few Korean drumming ensemble courses offered in U.S. colleges. Initiated by Joo Im Moon, ’03, a Freeman Asian Scholar from South Korea, the ensemble started as an informal student group in 2001. Joo Im Moon had some p’ungmulnori lessons in Korea before coming to Wesleyan and became the instructor for the group. The informal student group met with great enthusiasm from Wesleyan students. One year later, Joo Im acquired the support from the Mansfield Freeman Center for East Asian Studies and brought back a few musical instruments from Korea. She then formed the Samulnori Student Forum in Fall 2002, with Professor Su Zheng, then the Chair of the East Asian Studies Program, as faculty advisor.