

**University of Copenhagen**  
**Pre-modern Korea: history, culture, and society**

**Course syllabus September 2016**  
**Andrew David Jackson**

NOTE THIS SCHEDULE CAN CHANGE ACCORDING TO CLASS  
NEEDS, SO ALWAYS CHECK ON ABSALON FOR UPDATES

**Recommended text book - one of the following**

Keith Pratt. *Everlasting Flower: A History of Korea*. London: Reaktion, 2006.

Michael J. Seth, *A Concise History of Korea*

Carter Eckert, *Korea Old and New: A history*

essay deadlines

1. 1 page Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October midnight to Sunday
2. 2 pages Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November midnight to Sunday
3. final whole draft Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December midnight to Sunday

**Lesson 1. Historiography, sources, and life on the Korean Peninsula**

Sep 6

Essential readings

Peter Lee ed., *Sourcebook of Korean Civilization*, Vol. 1. New York: Columbia University Press, 1993, vol.1 pp. 1-18.

‘Myth, Memory and Reinvention in Korea: The Case of Tan’gun,’ Michael J. Seth.  
questions:

Who is Tan’gun and why is he important?

In what ways has belief in Tan’gun changed over time?

Study Skills: Note Taking

Extra reading

Eckert, Carter, *Korea: Old and New*, Cambridge: Harvard U.P., 1990, pp. 1-23.\*

Seth, Michael J., ‘The Origins,’ *A Concise History of Korea*, pp.7-26

**Lesson 2. The Three Kingdoms and controversies Individual readings**

Sep 13

Main Readings

‘China’s Northeast Project and the System of Korean History’, Song Kiho

Readings by Ahn Yonson and Hyung Il Pai will be sent out by email

Ahn, Yonson, 'Competing Nationalisms: The mobilisation of history and archaeology in the Korea-China wars over Koguryo/Gaogouli ', *The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus*  
[http://www.japanfocus.org/-Yonson-Ahn/1837#\\*\\*\\*](http://www.japanfocus.org/-Yonson-Ahn/1837#***)

Hyung II Pai, "Culture Contact and Culture Change: The Korean Peninsula and Its Relations with the Han Dynasty Commandery of Lelang", *World Archaeology*, Vol. 23, No. 3 (1992).\*\*

#### Extra Readings

Seth, Michael J., 'The Fourth Century and the Emergence of the Three Kingdoms,' *A Concise History of Korea*, pp. 27-47

Study Skills: Reading

### **Lesson 3 "Unified Silla"**

Sep 20

#### Readings

James Grayson, "Religious Syncretism in the Shilla Period: The Relationship between Esoteric Buddhism and Korean Primeval Religion", *Asian Folklore Studies*, Vol. 43, No. 2 (1984).

Seth, Michael J., 'United Silla,' *A Concise History of Korea*, pp.49-74

### **Lesson 4. The Koryô Dynasty: Society and Culture**

Sep 27

#### Readings

Hō Hūng-sik, "Buddhism and Koryō Society", in Lewis Lancaster et al, *Buddhism in Koryō: A Royal Religion*, Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies, Univ. of Calif, 1996.

Deuchler, Martina, *The Confucian Transformation of Korea*. Harvard-Yenching Institute Monograph No. 36, Harvard University, 1992, chapter 1.\*\*\*

Seth, Michael J., 'The New Koryō State,' *A Concise History of Korea*, pp. 75-98

Recording: Remco Breukker, 'The Significance of the Ten Injunctions'

### **Lesson 5. The Koryô Dynasty: The Mongol Invasions**

Oct 4

#### Readings

Seth, Michael J., 'Military Rulers and Mongol Invaders,' *A Concise History of Korea*, pp. 99-119

Henthorn, W.E, *Korea: The Mongol Invasions*, ix-13

Winchester, Mark, excerpts from *The Mongol Invasions of Japan*, London: Belgarum, 2008.

### **Questions**

As you read take notes on Mongol rule of Korea  
importance of the period  
how it is usually considered  
why the Mongols invaded  
how the Koreans resisted  
important art, philosophical, literary and commercial developments  
political developments in Korea

**Lesson 6. Art in from the Silla, Koryô and Chosôn Dynasties Individual readings**  
Oct 11

**Korean art by Keith Pratt**

Recording

1. Martina Deuchler, a funeral tablet

Everyone will be given individual readings in lesson 5

Answer the following questions at home (not 5 minutes before class), write the answers on the paper (don't do them 'in your head'), memorize your answers and get ready to explain it from your memory to someone else in your class.

1. What is the name of the object in English and in Korean? what does it mean (if anything)?
2. When and where does it come from?
3. what is it made of?
4. What was it used for?
5. Is there any symbolism in the art? (distinctive patterns or imagery – do they have any meaning?)
6. why is it special?
7. why/how is it different from Chinese or Japanese art? what is unique about it?
8. do a quick internet research about the object and take notes
9. write two questions that you have about that object/piece of art

**Lesson 7. The Koryô-Chosôn Transition and Early Chosôn**

Oct 25

Main Readings

Martina Deuchler, "Neo-Confucianism in Early Yi Korea: Some Reflections on the Role of Ye, *Korea Journal* vol. 15, no. 5 (1975).

Seth, Michael J., 'The Neo-Confucian Revolution and the Chosôn State,' *A Concise History of Korea*, pp. 99-119

John Duncan, "The Social Background to the Founding of the Chosôn Dynasty: Change or Continuity?". *The Journal of Korean Studies* 6 (1988/89):39-79. (**Read only the first few pages and the last few pages**)

**Lesson 8 The development of Han'gûl Individual readings**

Nov 1

Lee Ki-Moon, 'The Inventor of the Korean Alphabet' in Young-Key Kim-Renaud (ed.), *The Korean Alphabet: Its History and Structure*, Honolulu: Hawai'i University Press, 1997

Sixiang Wang, 'The Sounds of Our Country', 2014

Gary Ledyard, 'The International Linguistic Background of the Correct Sounds for the Instruction of the People', in Young-Key Kim-Renaud (ed.), *The Korean Alphabet: Its History and Structure*, Honolulu: Hawai'i University Press, 1997.

Adrian Buzo, "An Introduction to Early Korean Writing Systems." In *The Korean Language*. Seoul: The Si-sa-yong-o-sa Publishers, Inc., 1983.

Yeon Jaehoon, 'Was the Korean alphabet a sole invention of King Sejong?', available at <[http://www.academia.edu/1289570/Was\\_the\\_Korean\\_alphabet\\_a\\_sole\\_invention\\_of\\_King\\_Sejong](http://www.academia.edu/1289570/Was_the_Korean_alphabet_a_sole_invention_of_King_Sejong)>, accessed 13 February 2014.

Lee Ki-Moon, 'Foundations of Hunmin Chŏngŭm', *The Korean Language*, Si-sa-yong-o-sa: Seoul, 1988.

Robert Ramsey, 'The Invention and Use of the Korean Alphabet', in Ho-min Sohn (ed.), *Korean Language in Culture and Society*, Hawai'i: Hawai'i University Press, 2006.

Kim Jin-p'yŏng, 'The letterforms of Han'gŭl: It's Origin and Process of Transformation', *The Korean Language*, Si-sa-yong-o-sa: Seoul, 1988.

Kim Zong-su, 'The History and Future of Hangeul: Korea's indigenous script.'

## **Lesson 9. Kings and Aristocrats and factionalism**

**Nov 8**

### Readings

James B. Palais, "Confucianism and The Aristocratic/Bureaucratic Balance in Korea", *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, Vol. 44, No. 2 (1984).

Andrew David Jackson, 'The Political and Military Background to the 1728 Musin Rebellion.'

JaHyun Kim Haboush, "The Confucianization of Korean Society, in Gilbert Rozman ed., *Confucian Heritage and Its Modern Adaption*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991.

Wagner, "The Ladder of Success in Yi Dynasty Korea", *Occasional Papers on Korea* 1 (1972).

## **Lesson 10. Foreign Relations during the Chosŏn period.**

**Nov 15**

### Readings

Clark, Donald, 'Sino Korean Tributary Relations under the Ming'

Kim, Dongcheol. "Dongnae Merchants: Forerunners of Trade with Japan"  
Han Moonjong, 'Tsushima Belonged to Both Japan and Korea'  
Recording: James Lewis 'Ginseng'

**Lesson 11. Nineteenth Century Social Unrest. Individual readings**

**Nov 22**

Readings

Anders Karlsson, "Central Power, Local Society, and Rural Unrest in Nineteenth-Century Korea: An Attempt at Comparative Local History," *Sungkyun Journal of East Asian Studies*, vol. 6, no. 2 (October 2006), pp. 207-238.

Sun Joo Kim. "Taxes, the Local Elite, and the Rural Populace in the Chinju Uprising of 1862." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 66:3 (November 2007): 993-1027.

**Lesson 12 Law and Punishment in Chosôn Korea.**

**Nov 29**

Readings

Sun Joo Kim and Jungwon Kim, *Wrongful Deaths: Selected Inquest Records from Nineteenth-Century Korea*. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2014.

Read the two cases. Can you guess the punishment for the accused? prison? execution? beating? etc How many people do you think were punished?

William Shaw, "Social and Intellectual Aspects of Traditional Korean Law, 1392-1910." In Bong Duck Chun, William Shaw, and Dai-Kwon Choi. *Traditional Korean Legal Attitudes*. Berkeley: Institute for East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 1980.