

# **KORN 420A Readings in Middle and Early Modern Korean**

**Instructor: Ross King (University of British Columbia)**

The main purpose of this course is to learn the basics of the structure of (Late) Middle Korean as exemplified primarily by close reading of excerpts from the Korean translations of the Literary Sinitic biographical vignettes in the 삼강행실도三綱行實圖, a 15th-century Neo-Confucian ethics primer composed not long after the invention of the Korean vernacular script. The Middle Korean forms will be juxtaposed with their reflexes in modern standard Korean (as well as some other varieties) as well as with forms in a later edition of the same book from the 1790s in order to give a diachronic overview of the history and structure of the Korean language over the past 500 years or so. We will also pay attention to some of the socio-cultural and historical background surrounding the publication and print history of this important and popular text that Koreans read in various guises for more than 400 years.

Every week we will try to do at least two things:

- a) read chapters from two books with useful information relevant to the 삼강행실도 and the history of the Korean language materials. The readings will come from Lee & Ramsey's *History of the Korean language* and Oh Young Kyun's *Engraving virtue: The printing history of a premodern Korean moral primer*.
- b) read at least one biographical vignette from the 효자도孝子圖 or "Filial Children (Illustrated)" section along with the annotated English translation and grammatical notes from the forthcoming study of the British Library copy of this text.

## **Course Requirements:**

-preparation of all readings and active participation in class (20%)

-one article summary in class of a Korean-language article on the 三綱行實圖 (20%)

-twenty-minute maximum; the point is to extract the main arguments and key points of an academic article written in Korea and summarize them in English with an accompanying PowerPoint presentation

-take-home mid-term exam (30%)

-take-home final exam (30%)

*Take-home Exams:*

The take-home exams will consist of one or more 행실-type vignettes from the 烈女圖 section, to be romanized and analyzed along the same lines (and using the same resources) as those we read in class.

### **Required Texts:**

Lee, Ki-moon and S. Robert Ramsey. 2012. *A History of the Korean Language*. Cambridge University Press.

-available online via UBC Library at:

<https://www-cambridge-org.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca/core/books/history-of-the-korean-language/53A69B381D2534210A336CCB8879F605>

Oh, Young Kyun. 2014. *Engraving Virtue: The Printing History of a Premodern Korean Moral Primer*.

Boston & Leiden: Brill.

- available online via UBC Library at:

<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ubc/detail.action?docID=1207868>

King, Ross. Forthcoming. *Conduct of the Three Bonds, Illustrated: Annotated Translation of the First Korean Translation of the Samgang haengsilto* 三綱行實圖.

-files will be provided by the author

### **Other Useful Resources:**

Samuel E. Martin (1992). *A Reference Grammar of Korean*. Tuttle Publishing.

### **Week One:**

Readings: Lee & Ramsey: Introduction

Oh: Introduction & Chapter 1 (“Prelude to a Confucian State: Literati, Morality, and Books”)

### **Week Two:**

Readings: Lee & Ramsey: Sections 5.1-5.2 (“Late Middle Korean: Sources and the Korean Alphabet”)

Oh: Chapter 2 (“The Conception of the *Samgang haengsil-to*”)

### **Week Three:**

Readings: Lee & Ramsey: Section 5.3 (“Late Middle Korean: Phonology”)

Oh: Chapter 3, pp. 127-154 (“Vernacular Sounds and the Reduced Edition”)

**Week Four:**

Readings: Lee & Ramsey: Section 5.4 (“Late Middle Korean: Morphology”)  
Oh: Chapter 3: pp. 154-196 (“Vernacular Sounds and the Reduced Edition”)

**Week Five:**

Readings: Lee & Ramsey: Sections 5.5-5.6 (“Late Middle Korean: Syntax and Vocabulary”)  
Oh: Ch. 4, pp. 197-228 (“The Sequels: Here and Now in the Chosŏn”)

**Week Six:**

Readings: Lee & Ramsey: 6.1-6.3 (“Early Modern Korean: Sources, Writing and Orthography,  
Phonology”)  
Oh: Ch. 4, 228-262 (“The Sequels: Here and Now in the Chosŏn”)

**Week Seven:**

Readings: Lee & Ramsey: 6.4-6.5 (“Early Modern Korean: Grammar and Vocabulary”)  
Oh: Conclusions

**Week Eight:**

Readings: Lee & Ramsey: Chapter 7 (“Contemporary Korean”)

**Week Nine:**

Later Versions of the *Samgang Haengsilto*

Article Presentations:

**Week Ten:**

Later Versions of the *Samgang Haengsilto*

Article Presentations:

**Week Eleven:**

Later Versions of the *Samgang Haengsilto*

Article Presentations:

**Week Twelve:**

Later Versions of the *Samgang Haengsilto*

Article Presentations:

**Week Thirteen:**

Later Versions of the *Samgang Haengsilto*

**Week Fourteen (Optional Make-up Session):**

**Take-home Finals will be distributed on Tuesday Dec. 4 and due on Dec. 15**

**In-Class Article Presentations:**

Students should consult with the instructor about a suitable article for presentation in class.

*Sample articles to present on:*

Kang, Mihuy (2003) Atong kulim chayk ulose samkang hayngsilto uy thukseng kwa kachi yenkwu (27 pp.)

Kang, Myengkwan (2002) *Samkang hayngsilto: yakca eykey kahaycin totek uy phoklyek* (25 pp.)

Co, Hyenwu (2009) 〈오륜행실도〉 도상의 삽화적 성격과 그 함의: 〈삼강행실도〉와의 대비를 중심으로- (25 pp.)

崔博光 (1998) 朝解通信使와 日本文學: 『三綱・續三綱行實圖』를 중심으로. (24 pp.)

Sin, Unkyeng (2009) *Samkang hayngsilto uy taseng-seng yenkwu* (22 pp.)

Sin, Unkyeng (2009) 散・韻 혼합담론으로서의 三綱行實圖 연구. (22 pp.)

Choy, Cenglan (2008) 朝鮮時代 行實圖의 書體와 木版畫 樣式 (21 pp.)

Im, Tonghwun (2006) ‘Cikhata’ kwumun uy munpep. (18 pp.)

Yi, Swukyeng (2004) Cosen sitay Hyocato: Hayngsilto-lyu hyocato (18-ish pp.)

Yi, Yenghuy (2007) 행실도류 언해서의 국어학적 연구: 삼강행실도 와 동국신속삼강행실도, 오륜행실도의 동일 부분을 중심으로. (13 pp.)

Kim, Hwunsik (1996) 朝朝鮮初期 『三綱行實圖』 보급의 대상. (13 pp.)

Kang, Mankil (1978) 한글 창제의 역사적 의미. (13 pp.)

Kim, Yengho (2012) 일본에서의 『상강행실도(三綱行實圖)』의 수용양상 고찰. (11 pp.)

Yi, Yenglim (2009) 『삼강행실도』, 유교윤리의 강요와 모방, 전유의 장. 주영하 외, <조선시대 책의 문화사> 서평. (10 pp.)

Pak, Kyengchel (2011) 삼강행실도의 만화칸과 칸 사이 형태 분석. (8 pp.)

Yi, Wuseng (1982) 朝鮮王朝의 訓民政策과 正音의 機能. (7 pp.)