Objectives

There are three interrelated goals for this course.

Primarily, this course examines Asian representations of ghosts and spirits, in literature, drama, and film. We’ll start with a brief overview of concepts of the afterlife in the major religious/philosophical beliefs of Asia, to see how these provide a framework for considering the nature of existence, life, and death. Then, we’ll consider the question of community in Asia, both as a traditional ideal and a contemporary issue. From here, we’ll discover the function of ghosts within this conception of community—in both positive and negative aspects. Our material for analysis draws on representations of ghosts and spirits from China, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Japan. Completion of all required readings (which will be assigned in class) before they are discussed is politely but strongly recommended. Don’t like to read or to pay attention? Don’t take this course!

The second goal is to provide training in textual analysis: how to read a work of art and discover the ways in which its components suggest a particular ‘meaning’ or provide evidence for a specific interpretation.

The third goal is to provide training in academic research—skills in information-gathering, synthesis, rhetoric, and writing which are transferable to and useful in every aspect of higher education and in many diverse career paths.

In accordance with the policies of the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, students who miss more than 10% of classes (three classes) will not be permitted to write the final exam. Cell phones and texting/IM devices/software are not permitted in class. In accordance with University of Victoria Policy, the midterm exam, midterm essay, final exam, and final essay are essential course components.

Many of the issues we will discuss have the potential to be controversial. I am committed to creating an equitable, inclusive, and safe educational space. Intolerant or abusive comments or behaviour will be dealt with appropriately.

Tentative Schedule

Thursday, January 3: Introduction to the class
• Course overview, assignments, goals.
• Conventions of the Ghost Story: good and bad ghosts and spirits
• Ghosts as ideological devices: teaching moral lessons, giving moral warnings

Part One: Backgrounds and Contexts

Monday, January 7: Brief Introduction to Spirits and the Afterlife in Asian Religions
• Buddhism, Shamanism, Shinto, Taoism
Thursday, January 10: Ghosts and Ancestors

- Ancestor worship in Japan and the Guardian Spirit
- Clip from Tales of Terror from Tokyo, Volume 1: “Spilt Water” (Tsuruta Norio)

-> Readings:

Monday, January 14: From Ancestors to Animism

- the spirits of things—morality, rewards, retribution, and spirits

-> Readings:
- Yanagita, Kunio Folk Tales from Japan

Thursday, January 17: From Animism to Shinto

- Animism, Deities, Community and the Other World

->Readings:
- Kojiki and images of the Land of the Dead
- Herbert, Jean Shinto: at the Fountainhead of Japan, Chapter 1: Generalities; Chapter 3: Metaphysics, Ethics, Spiritual Exercises, Aesthetics.

Monday, January 21: Shinto and Community

- Totoro, Spirited Away, and interlocking worlds of support

->Readings:

Thursday, January 24: Buddhism, community, punishment, rewards

- Heaven and Hell in Buddhism
- Scenes from Jigoku zōshi, other Buddhist works

->Readings:
- Matsunaga, Daigan and Alicia The Buddhist Concept of Hell, Chapter 4: Description and Analysis of the Eight Hells.
- Ling, T.O. Buddhism and the Mythology of Evil, Chapter 1: Popular Mythologies of Evil.

- Assignment One: Annotated Bibliography due

Part Two: Supporting the Community: Helpful Spirits, Faithful Ghosts

Monday, January 28: Ghosts and Gender, Ghosts and Filial Piety

- Confucianism and Ghosts as both temptation and moral examples
- Screening of clips from A Chinese Ghost Story

->Readings:
• DeWoskin, K. and Crump, J. In Search of the Supernatural: the Written Record, selections.

Thursday, January 31: Ghosts and Love
• Ghosts in the Noh plays of Zeami

—>Readings: Matsukaze, Izutsu

Monday, February 4: Ghosts and Faithfulness
• Clips from Ugetsu monogatari, Nang Nak


Thursday, February 7: Ghosts and Protection
• Clip from Dark Tales of Japan (segment: “The Sacrifice”)

—>Readings:

• Assignment Two: Midterm Essay due

Monday, February 11: Family Day, class cancelled

Thursday, February 14: Midterm Exam, in-class, full session

Monday, February 18: Reading Break

Thursday, February 21: Reading Break

Part Three: Damage: Ghosts, Betrayal, Vengeance, Retribution

Monday, February 25: Ghosts and Alienation
• Damage to the community, vindictive ghosts

—>Readings:
• Zeami, Lady Aoi
• Translated Ghost stories, Frightening Meetings—Real Experiences with Ghosts
• Umehara, Takeshi The Concept of Hell, Chapter 4: The Confrontation of Heaven and Hell; Chapter 6: Demons of Desire: The Tale of Genji.

Thursday, February 28: Ghosts and Alienation, 2
• Urbanisation and alienation
• clips from Juon

—>Readings:
• Balmain, Colette Introduction to the Japanese Horror Film, Chapter 9: Techno-Horror and Urban Alienation.

Monday, March 4: Betrayal and Retribution, 1
• Screening of Shutter, part 1

Thursday, March 7: Betrayal and Retribution, 2
• Screening of Shutter, part 2
• Assignment Three: Term Essay Outlines due

Monday, March 11: Betrayal in the family
• Screening of scenes from Ringu
Thursday, March 14: Ghosts, Spirits, Other Worlds, Fear
  • *Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio:* “Raising the Dead,” “The Painted Skin,” “The Resuscitated Corpse,” “The Stolen Eyes.”

Monday, March 18: Technology and Terror
  • Screening of *Kairo (Pulse,* Kurosawa Kiyoshi, 2001) Part 1

Thursday, March 21: Technology and Terror, 2
  • Screening of *Kairo (Pulse,* Kurosawa Kiyoshi, 2001) Part 2

  • Term Essays Due

Monday, March 25: Reviewing ghosts and vengeance
  • Community, for good or ill

Thursday, March 28: Final Exam, in class, full session

Monday, April 1: Easter Monday, no class

Thursday, April 4: Final Day
  • Material returned

### Grading

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<th>Component</th>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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### Mark Ranges

- A+: 90% —> A: 85-90%
- A: 80-84%
- B+: 77-79%
- B: 73-76%
- B-: 70-72%
- C+: 65-69%
- C: 60-64%
- D: 50-59%
- F: Below 50%

Students who do not complete all course assignments may receive an N. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that all course requirements are complete.
Department of Pacific and Asian Studies

Plagiarism and Cheating

The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies upholds and enforces the University’s policies on plagiarism and cheating. These policies are described on pp. 33-34 of the current University Calendar (2010/11). All students are advised to read this section.

Practices that are not acceptable include:

- Persuading or paying someone else to write the student’s assignments, or otherwise presenting someone else’s work as the student’s own;
- Downloading essays or articles from the Internet, or copying passages from books or journals, and presenting them as the student’s own work;
- Citing only a portion of a quotation, and presenting the remainder as the student’s own work;
- Paraphrasing, summarising, or utilising the rhetorical structure of an existing work without citation;
- Copying from another student or sharing information in examinations or tests;
- Bringing notes or other materials into an examination or test, except as authorised by the examiner or instructor.

In addition, the following kinds of behaviour, unless specifically authorised by the instructor, are unacceptable in an examination: talking or communicating by computer or other electronic device with another student; looking at the work of other students while writing an exam; consulting books, electronic materials or other sources of information.

In every course, the instructor may choose to conduct an additional oral examination, in the presence of another faculty member from the Department, so as to ascertain the level of a student’s knowledge or understanding of the course material.

Departmental Policy Regarding Penalties for Plagiarism and Cheating

The possible penalties for plagiarism and cheating are outlined in the Calendar. An instructor will notify the Chair of the Department of cases of a suspected violation and the Chair will contact the student to arrange an interview with the student and instructor to review the case. If it is determined that a violation of University policy has occurred, the Chair will notify the Director of Academic Advising of the case and a letter of reprimand will be issued to the student. Any repeat offenses will be dealt with directly by the Dean. In the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, the minimum penalty for a first offence will be a grade of zero for the assignment, examination or test. Depending upon the seriousness of the offense and the weight of the assignment, the Chair may assign a grade of F (0 GPA) for the course. Students will not be permitted to rewrite an assignment, examination or test on which they have been found to be cheating. Records of any violation will be held by the Director of Academic Advising on behalf of the Dean of Humanities. Such records will be destroyed four years after a student graduates. A repeat offence may result in the additional penalty of Disciplinary Probation being placed on the student’s Official Transcript by the Dean; this notation is removed upon graduation.

If you have any doubts about the University’s policies, or want to know if a practice is acceptable or not, you should raise your concerns with your course instructor.
PAAS 207
Course Readings

Copies of most of the following are on reserve in McPherson Library, in the Reserve Section. Many of these articles are available for download from JSTOR or Project Muse, online academic-journal storage services. Go to the Uvic Libraries gateway at http://gateway.uvic.ca/index.html. Find JSTOR or Project Muse. To search or download from these services, you'll need your UVic Netlink ID and password. Articles are available as PDF files. Other links are as listed.

1. Required Articles (available through JSTOR or Project Muse):


2. Required Book Chapters (on reserve in McPherson)

- Balmain, Colette Introduction to the Japanese Horror Film, Chapter 9: Techno-Horror and Urban Alienation.

- Herbert, Jean Shinto: at the Fountainhead of Japan, Chapter 1: Generalities; Chapter 3: Metaphysics, Ethics, Spiritual Exercises, Aesthetics.


- Law, Bimala Churn The Buddhist Conception of Spirits, Chapter 4: Physical Description of the Pretas.

- Ling, T.O. Buddhism and the Mythology of Evil, Chapter 1: Popular Mythologies of Evil.
• Matsunaga, Daigan and Alicia *The Buddhist Concept of Hell*, Chapter 4: Description and Analysis of the Eight Hells.


• Umehara, Takeshi *The Concept of Hell*, Chapter 4: The Confrontation of Heaven and Hell; Chapter 6: Demons of Desire: *The Tale of Genji*.


3. Required Short Stories and plays (on reserve in McPherson)


• DeWoskin, K. and Crump, J. *In Search of the Supernatural: the Written Record*, selections. GR 335 K3513

• Hearn, Lafcadio *Some Chinese Ghosts*, available from Moodle or from <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/16261>

• Hearn, Lafcadio *In Ghostly Japan*, available from Moodle or from <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/8128>

• Pu, Sung-Ling *Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio*, selections assigned in class. Complete text in two volumes available in PDF from: <http://archive.org/search.php?query=creator%3A%22Pu%2C+Sung-ling%22+1640-1715%22>

• Translated Japanese ghost stories, *Frightening Meetings—Real Experiences with Ghosts*, available from Moodle and on reserve.


• Yanagita, Kunio *Japanese Folk Tales*, selections, available from Moodle and on reserve.

4. Recommended Articles, Books, etc:


• Taoist texts, at <http://www.sacred-texts.com/tao/index.htm>