PAAS 207 - Ghosts and Spirits

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Photo:

Course description:

Ghost stories are an indispensable feature of narrative traditions from around the world, and those from Asia are among the most powerful. This course explores the ways in which religious and philosophical systems have influenced the types of narratives which artists, filmmakers, and playwrights have created over the past 4,000 years of Asian history, and the ways in which ghost stories can serve as moral tales to instruct in matters of conscience and propriety. Come and be scared into being a better person!

Proposed assignments:

Midterm Exam:	15%
Final Exam:	15%
Bibliography and Outline	20%
Midterm Essay:	20%
Term Essay:	30%

Proposed reading list:

• Antoni, Klaus "Yasukuni-Jinja and Folk Religion: The Problem of Vengeful Spirits," *Asian Folklore Studies,* Vol. 47, No. 1 (1988), pp. 123-136 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1178255>

• Baksheev, Evgeny S. "Becoming Kami? Discourse on Postmortem Ritual Deification in the Ryukyus," *Japan Review,* No. 20 (2008), pp. 275-339 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25791326>

• Creel, H.G. "What is Taoism?" *The American Oriental Society,* Vol. 76, No. 3, 1956, pp. 139-152

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/596285>

• Fuhrmann, Arnika *"Nang Nak*—Ghost Wife: Desire, Embodiment, and Buddhist Melancholia in a Contemporary Thai Ghost Film," *Discourse,* Volume 31, Number 3, Fall 2009 pp. 220-247

<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/dis/summary/v031/31.3.fuhrmann.html>

• Gilday, Edmund T. "Dancing with Spirit(s): Another View of the Other World in Japan," *History of Religions,* Vol. 32, No. 3 (Feb., 1993), pp. 273-300

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1062998 >

• Iwasaka, Michiko and Toelken, Barre *Ghost and the Japanese: Cultural Experience in Japanese Death Legends*

whole book available from <http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/usupress_pubs/65>

• Ooms, Herman *The Religion of the Household: A Case Study of Ancestor Worship in Japan*, *Contemporary Religions in Japan,* Vol. 8, No. 3/4, The Religion of the Household (Sep.-Dec., 1967), pp. 201-333 whole book available from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30233912>

• Teiser, Stephen F. "Ghosts and Ancestors in Medieval Chinese Religion: The Yü-lan-p'en Festival as Mortuary Ritual," *History of Religions,* Vol. 26, No. 1 (Aug., 1986), pp. 47-67 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1062387>

• Yu, David C "The Creation Myth and its Symbolism in Classical Taoism," *Philosophy East and West,* Vol. 31, No. 4, October, 1981, pp. 479-500 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1398794>

• 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.

• Inoue, Nobutaka (ed.) *Kami: Contemporary Papers on Japanese Religion,* Chapter 2: "Evolution of the Concept of *Kami"*

• 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.

• Smith, Robert J. *Ancestor Worship in Contemporary Japan,* Chapter 2: Spirits, Ghosts, and Gods.

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

• Yu, Chai-Shin (ed.) *Korean and Asian Religious Tradition,* "Shamanistic Thought and Traditional Korean Homes," "Korean Folk Belief," "Confucianism and Korean Social Structure."

• Chamberlain, Basil Hall *Kojiki,* selections. <http://www.sacred-texts.com/shi/kojiki.htm>

• 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%2C+1640-1715%22>

• "The Sticky, Sticky Pine," from *Peach Boy and Other Favourite Stories,* Tokyo: Tuttle, 1991, pp. 55-58

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

• Zeami Motokiyo, *Aoi no ue, Matsukaze,* and *Izutsu,* from <http://www.the-noh.com/en/plays/index.html>

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

• Hirasawa, Caroline "The Inflatable, Collapsible Kingdom of Retribution: A Primer on Japanese Hell Imagery and Imagination," *Monumenta Nipponica,* Volume 63, Number 1, Spring 2008, pp. 1-50.

• Japanese Hell scrolls, *Gaki-zoshi* (tales of hungry ghosts) eMuseum, National Museum and National Treasures: <http://www.emuseum.jp/top?d_lang=en>

• Seki, Keigo "Types of Japanese Folktales," *Asian Folklore Studies,* Vol. 25 (1966), pp. 1-220

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1177478>

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

• The Tibetan Book of the Dead <http://www.holybooks.com/the-tibetan-book-of-the-dead-2/>