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:

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Bibliography and Outline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Essay</td>
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Proposed reading list:


- 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*.


- 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.


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


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


- 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.


