

Stanford Program in Kyoto Course Offerings – Spring Quarter 2020

1. Contemporary Religion in Japan's Ancient Capital: Sustaining and Recasting Tradition by Professor Catherine Ludvik Wednesday, 3rd (13:10-14:40) & 4th (14:55-16:25)

This course explores contemporary Japanese attitudes to religion and popular forms of religiosity. The syncretic nature people's beliefs and practices, often described as a combination of Shinto and Buddhism, draws on a vast variety of interwoven concepts, beliefs, customs, and religious activities of native Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and Indian origins. Against this complex historical background, we will examine various aspects and expressions of contemporary Japanese religion, including the pursuit of worldly benefits, religion and healing, fortune-telling, the popularity of ascetic practices and practitioners, pilgrimage, the enormous appeal of festivals (matsuri), new religions and their image, the impact of the internet on religion, and the response of religion in times of crisis, such as natural disasters. Drawing on Kyoto's rich religious landscape of temples and shrines as well as its busy calendar of vibrant ceremonies and festivals, classes will be supplemented with organized field trips, and student assignments will be based both on readings as well as site visits.

As part of the course, students will have the opportunity to take part in several exciting field trips to various temples/sites in and around Kyoto both during the regular class hours as well as outside.

Prof. Ludvik obtained a Ph.D. at the University of Toronto in the Centre for the Study of Religion and teaches Japanese religion, visual arts, culture and history at Doshisha University and Kyoto Sangyo University. Spanning Indian and Japanese religions and their visual arts, her research interests focus on the metamorphoses of originally Indian deities in texts, images and rituals of Japan, as well as on ascetic practices and pilgrimage. Prof. Ludvik is the author of *Recontextualizing the Praises of a Goddess* (2006) and *Sarasvati, Riverine Goddess of Knowledge* (2007). She is currently researching the goddess Uga-Benzaiten and the Shikoku Henro pilgrimage. She has taught courses on Japanese religion, visual arts and gardens on the Stanford Program in Kyoto since 2001.

2. Gardens of Kyoto: Spaces of Aesthetic and Spiritual Contemplation by Professor Catherine Ludvik Monday, 3rd (13:10-14:40) & 4th (14:55-16:25)

Among the great cultural highlights of the ancient capital of Kyoto are its numerous breathtaking gardens of world renown. Embodying the human relationship to nature and the aesthetic values and spiritual mindsets of their designers, through both their forms and functions Japanese gardens also provide a lens into the social, historical, and artistic milieus of their time. A study of Kyoto's gardens in their respective contexts, therefore, constitutes an analytical exploration of modes of conception, design, and experience of Japanese gardens in their many varieties.

This course takes students on a chronological stroll through Japanese gardens of different eras, types, and functions, spanning from their prehistoric origins to contemporary times. Focusing on representative garden examples from successive time periods, we will situate these gardens, their artistic designs, expressions of aesthetic values, as well as their uses, within their respective historical, social, cultural, and religious contexts. In the process of inquiry, we will analyze the frameworks of thought underlying changing concepts of gardens, and the rendering of aesthetic values into the choreography of forms and space in the art of garden design.

The goals of this course are (a) to familiarize students with the principal types of gardens that have been produced in Japan throughout its history, (b) to enable them to recognize characteristic forms of design as expressions of aesthetic values and spiritual mindsets; (c) to have students acquire an awareness of the

contexts (historical, social, cultural, artistic, and religious) within which these gardens take shape, and the analytical skills to identify the concepts, theories, and assumptions of these contextually-based frameworks of thought; (d) to study and also to experience the traditional activities that take place within the gardens in order to understand, intellectually as well as practically, their functions, which also govern their design.

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3. Exploring Japan's Media Landscape by Professor James Hamilton Tuesday, 4th (14:55-16:25) & 5th (16:40-18:10)

This course will examine Japanese media through the lenses of economics, politics, and media studies. A key goal is to understand the forces that shape the creation of content across different demands that individuals in Japan have for information as consumers, producers, entertainment seekers, and voters. Broad themes covered include the ways that markets transform information into news, the operation of the marketplace of ideas, the economics of digital entertainment markets, and the operation of social networks. Distinctive features of Japanese media examined will include anime, manga, national newspapers such as *Asahi Shimbun* and *Yomiuri Shimbun*, and the NHK public broadcasting system. Media coverage of preparations for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo will be a key focal point for discussion. (Note: no previous study of economics, politics, or media studies required).

Course elements will include participating in class discussions, writing three short papers, and delivering a presentation in class. The course will provide an overview of the economic, political, and cultural forces driving the creation of Japanese media content. Equipped with this framework, students will then be asked to pick samples of Japanese media and explain how markets, politics, and culture shape the form and content of what they've chosen to examine.

Prof. James Hamilton is the Hearst Professor of Communication, Chair of the Department of Communication, and Director of the Stanford Journalism Program at Stanford University. His books on media markets and information provision include *All the News That's Fit to Sell: How the Market Transforms Information into News* (Princeton, 2004), *Regulation Through Revelation: The Origin, Politics, and Impacts of the Toxics Release Inventory Program* (Cambridge, 2005), and *Channeling Violence: The Economic Market for Violent Television Programming* (Princeton, 1998). His most recent book, *Democracy's Detectives: The Economics of Investigative Journalism* (Harvard, 2016), focuses on the market for investigative reporting. Through research in the field of computational journalism, he is also exploring how the costs of story discovery can be lowered through better use of data and algorithms. He is co-founder of the Stanford Computational Journalism Lab, Senior Fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, affiliated faculty at the Brown Institute for Media Innovation, and member of the JSK Fellowships Board of Visitors.

For his accomplishments in research, he has won awards such as the David N Kershaw Award of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, the Goldsmith Book Prize from the Kennedy School's Shorenstein Center (twice), the Frank Luther Mott Research Award (twice), the Tankard Book Award, and a Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences Fellowship. Teaching awards from Harvard, Duke, and Stanford include the Allyn Young Prize for Excellence in Teaching the Principles of Economics, Trinity College Distinguished Teaching Award, Bass Society of Fellows, Susan Tiffit Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring Award, and School of Humanities and Sciences Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching.