The course will present an overview and appreciation of Zen-Buddhism and Taoism in the literature of China and Japan. The class will study the basic concepts of Taoism and Buddhism (Zen, in particular), distinguishing between those unique to each philosophy and those shared by both. Students will undertake close readings and analysis of selected works, recognizing the influences of these two major thoughts and their literary, religious, philosophical implications. In addition, the instructor will cover briefly the significant artistic achievements in the context of Zen-Buddhism and Taoism, with specific reference to the aesthetic intricacy of sculptures and paintings in Buddhist caverns, religious artifacts of bronze and ceramic-porcelains. Consequently, students will share with these texts not only their religious and philosophical contents, but a deeper cultural understanding of literature and art through their peculiar form of expressions.

The following textbooks will serve as core readings for class discussions throughout the semester: Additional reading materials will be posted to Blackboard.

Required texts:

3. Arthur Waley (tr.) Monkey, Grove Press.
5. Course Reader

This course fulfills the Category II Western Cultures and Traditions requirement.

COLT L/M/CT Track: This is a Literature concentration course.