

Asian Aesthetic and Literary Traditions

COLT 264, 22030, Spring 2013, Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:00-1:20 pm, VKC 156

Select one Discussion Section: Tuesdays at 9:00 am or 10:00 am, VKC 151

This course will examine the Asian aesthetic and literary heritage of fiction, drama, painting, sculpture, literary themes of the supernatural, the uncanny, and the marvelous, trends and myths through the readings of historical texts and literary works. It is basically concerned with an interdisciplinary approach to art and literature in China and Japan which focuses on the intercultural relationship between the artist and his art. Additional subject studies will be the attitude of the artist towards nature and the universe, the artist's treatment of the supernatural, the grotesque in Asian literature and art, and the artist's artistry in dealing with such motifs as the dream, heroic quest, love and death as well as heaven and hell.

Also included will be the expression of different visions of human life in art and literature---apocalyptic, tragic and comic that were developed under the heavy influence of cultural and religious paradigms such as Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism; the expression of significant aesthetic concept such as *ukiyo* (the floating world), *yugen* (dark and profound), *sabi* (non-emotional loneliness), *wu-wei* (non action) in anecdote-prose, court and lyrical poetry, music, painting and drama in China and Japan.

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

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

Professor Dominic Cheung
dcheung@usc.edu THH 365T



Gou Xi, *Early Spring* (c. 1072) Hanging scroll, ink and color on silk.