

# Asian Aesthetic and Literary Traditions

COLT 264g, 22020, Fall 2015, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:50 pm, VKC 150

Select one Discussion Section: Fridays at 11:00 am, VKC 206 or 12:00 pm, VKC 206



This course is a broad-based introduction to the aesthetic and literary traditions of Japan, China, and Korea. We will use interdisciplinary, comparative, and historical approaches to examine a wide variety of writing, painting, calligraphy, clothing, architecture and garden design produced in different East Asian historical periods. We also will consider the following questions: How do philosophical and religious systems such as Confucianism, Buddhism, Daoism, and Five Phases geomancy shape individual works of art? In what ways are East Asian traditions “shared” across the region, and in what ways must they be appreciated as distinct to their locale? Another crucial, overarching issue of this course is the relationship between the so-called “premodern” and “modern.” How do collective cultural memories shape current definitions of ethnic and national identity? Moreover, just who are the custodians of the “East Asian past”? Governments? Museums? Tour guides? Our cumulative study will enable us to address how the “premodern” exists within the present.

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

*This course fulfills the Category II Global Cultures and Traditions requirement.*

**Professor Jason Webb**

jasonweb@usc.edu

ACB 234