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MEDREN 2211

Medieval Kyoto

Instructor: Naomi Fukumori
(East Asian Languages and Literatures)
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:20-3:40PM
Mendenhall Lab 125
Class Number: 34490

Course Description

Kyoto was the capital of Japan from the eighth to the nineteenth centuries. Today it continues to be the site of many temples, shrines, gardens, and other cultural monuments that attest to Kyoto's enduring cultural practices and values. UNESCO collectively recognizes seventeen "Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto" as World Heritage Sites.

This course specifically focuses on the city's medieval period, from its founding in 794 to the late 16th century. This was a period in which Kyoto's cultural identity emerged, and, in view of Kyoto as the site of national authority during this duration, the broader Japanese cultural identity. Studying this timespan in the life of Kyoto lets us follow transformations in the lived environments of the city as it moves from imperial to *shōgun* military rule. By examining literary and other works of art, we'll also address similar cultural transformations involving aristocrats, warriors, Buddhist institutions, and merchants. Students will have the opportunity to reflect on practices of urban historical preservation through the contemporary efforts of Kyoto's citizens to preserve the heritage of the city.

Course Fulfills

General Elective (New) Foundation: Historical and Cultural Studies
General Elective (Legacy) Cultures and Ideas; Diversity: Global Studies


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