

Fall 2020 (4 points each. All course numbers begin with: EAAS OC3993:)

Japanese Religion Through the Lens of Visuals Culture (Catherine Ludvik)

This course introduces Japanese religion through the many aspects of its visual culture, including architecture, sculptural and pictorial representations of its icons, ritual implements, religious garments, pilgrimage scrolls and items of equipment on spiritual journeys, and so on. Kyoto's especially high concentration of Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines, in addition to its numerous museums, specialized religious goods shops, and private households, all display the enormous influence of religion on culture and the arts. The ancient capital therefore provides an ideal setting for the study of both religion and its spectacular ancient, as well as vibrant contemporary, visual culture. Classes will address a selection of different themes, such as the periodic rebuilding of Shinto shrines (*shikinen sengū*) and Buddhist as well as Shinto images, and will explore issues of construction and production techniques, spatial arrangements and their underlying concepts, and the choreography of the sacred.