What is the supernatural? In this course, we will look at the writings and art of pre-modern and early modern Japan and China to explore this question. In both countries, there is a rich and varied tradition of literature on the strange or supernatural that stretches back more than a millennium. But rarely, if ever, are these accounts solely about the ghosts, monsters, and foreigners they feature. In addition to making “good reading,” they also say something about the ideas and values of the societies that produced them. Our investigation will approach the question of the nature of meaning of the “supernatural” from a variety of angles.