War Tales: Histories of Violence in Medieval & Early Modern Japan & China

What is the romance of war? In this course, we will look at the writings and art of medieval and early modern Japan and China to explore how domestic and foreign military conflict are spun into stories. In addition to working through topics such as “the ideal military strategist,” “training techniques for the medieval warrior,” “narratives of glory,” and “memories of defeat,” we will also use small creative projects to explore these mini-themes as well as a final comparative project to tie what we learn about the narrativization of violence to our own individual interests, experiences, and the world around us.

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