

**FALL SEMESTER 2009**

**■ ARHS 530: Painting and Place in China**

Elizabeth Kindall

Mondays, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

上有天堂下有苏杭 *Above there is Heaven; below there is Suzhou and Hangzhou.*

This seminar will examine the relationship of painting and place in China from the tenth century to today. The socio-economic, historical, and religious implications of geographic regions, cities, and sites have long affected the creation, development and reception of Chinese painting. We will investigate why and how by focusing upon specific case studies of the Zhejiang, Wu and Anhui areas; the northern frontier and colonial regions along China's borders; the cities of Beijing, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Suzhou, and Yangzhou; as well as natural sites such as the Xiao and Xiang Rivers, the five sacred marchmounts, and the Daoist cave heavens. Paintings of these geographical, geopolitical, and geocultural areas represent dense cultural repositories for students of art history.

Topics will include the pictorial development and transmission of China's sacred Buddhist and Daoist geography; the subject matter, definitions and functions of 'pilgrimage' paintings; the political dissent and propaganda associated with the Xiao and Xiang rivers; the multivalent landscape symbolism of the famous painting *Peace Reigns over the River*; the codified topography and functionality of the scenic sites of Suzhou and Hangzhou; the equation of site with style in the reception of the Wu and Zhe schools; the personalization of the periphery by individual artists depicting Mount Hua, Guizhou and Yunnan; the patronage and reception of the Eight Eccentrics of Yangzhou; the commercialization of style and production in the Anhui school; and the westernized poster paintings of the Shanghai urban landscape and Communist countryside.

Students are not expected to have a background in Chinese studies. All readings will be in English.

*This course fulfills the Non-Western Art core requirement.*

*This course fulfills the Non-Western/non-European requirement for those beginning in fall 2009 and beyond.*

Background Reading:

Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *Cambridge Illustrated History of China* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).

Strassberg, Richard E., *Inscribed Landscapes: Travel Writing from Imperial China* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994).