

# KYOTO CONSORTIUM FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic Year: 2009 - 2010      Semester: Fall

Course Title: Kyoto: The Past in the Present

Instructor : H. Smith

### **Course Description:**

This course explores Kyoto from many angles, as a way of getting all of us to observe and experience the city directly, and to think about the changing connections between past and present. Each assignment requires you both to explore on your own and to visit particular places, always asking questions from Japanese whom you encounter. Among the topics of exploration are: nature in the city; the Kyoto street plan; the survival of *Genji monogatari* in Kyoto; traces of Hideyoshi; Raku tea ceramics; Buddhist cemeteries; neighborhood Jizo shrines; local festivals; public baths; and the Biwako Canal. The emphasis of the course is on direct personal exploration of the city today in order to grasp its long and complex history.

### **Requirements:**

- 1) Regular class attendance, with careful preparation and thoughtful participation in class discussion. (Counts for one-third of grade)
- 2) Participation in projects, either alone or as the member of a team, to create web-based studies of key topics related to the history of Kyoto as it can be experienced today. (Counts for two-thirds of grade)

### **Textbooks:**

The basic textbook is the city of Kyoto, but suggested for purchase is:

Chris Rowthorn, *Lonely Planet Kyoto* (Lonely Planet Publications, 2008). ISBN 1740598458. 1890 yen on Amazon.co.jp