The History Department is offering an exciting course on China and Japan during the fall:

State and Nature in China and Japan

Professor Randy Dodgen
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In the last 60 years, China and Japan have become two of the most powerful economies in the world, but both have done so at tremendous cost to the environment. In two countries where “nature” is revered in the abstract, economic development has caused catastrophic damage to the natural world. This course looks at the tensions and problems created by the collision of politics, economics, and nature over the last two centuries. In considering the mercury poisoning of Japanese fishermen, the nuclear disaster of Fukushima, the death of whole rivers in China, or the impact of coal-fueled power plants on the global environment, the post WWII experience of China and Japan offer fertile ground for research on the dangers of development and the political and economic forces that put the natural world at risk. Although useful, no prior knowledge of Chinese or Japanese history is required.

We will hold weekly discussions of assigned readings. Grades will be based on the quality of participation and on a substantial (minimum 20 pages) research paper. There will also be smaller bibliography and writing assignments designed to help you focus your research.

HIST 377
Monday
2:00-5:40pm
Stevenson 2079