Japanese Culture and Art is a 3-credit, 200-level travel seminar (TX 200C) to Kyoto, Japan, from Wednesday, May 23 to Sunday, June 17, 2012 (Summer Session I). The seminar will have both general Japanese art and textile studio components. Studio coursework will be held at the Kawashima Textile School.

Have you ever looked at the fabric of a kimono? Have you ever wondered how the Japanese dye their fabric to get such beautiful colors and designs? The Japanese have used many of the same traditional dyeing techniques for hundreds of years.

In this three-week summer-study abroad program in Kyoto, students will learn about these traditional dyeing techniques and explore both traditional and contemporary Japanese textile art.

**WHY JAPAN**

- Visit the cultural and artistic hotspots of Kyoto, Japan
- Learn traditional Japanese dyeing techniques from local textile artists
- Collaborate with Japanese college students
- Visit the textile art studios of famous Japanese artists
- Tour the city of Kyoto, the artistic capital of Japan
- Stay and learn at the Kawashima Textile School
The textile studio component of the course focuses on the traditional Japanese dyeing techniques of *roketsuzome*, *katazome*, and *shibori*. The student will learn, hands-on, each technique from a different local Japanese textile artist during the morning session, and then practice during the afternoon session. Students will create their own pieces for each technique studied. The general Japanese art component will consist of collaboration with Japanese peer students, with the goal of creating a collaborative project and visiting museums, galleries, artist’s studios, and other cultural sites around Kyoto to better compare and contrast this non-Western culture with our own. Students will take part in field trips during the first week. They will document their experiences through journal writing and reporting assignments. Through this hands-on travel experience, they will gain a wider knowledge of ideas and styles.

**KYOTO THE CITY**

From the early beginnings as the seat of imperial power, Kyoto developed into a major center of arts, culture, and religion. Walking along some streets of the city today is like a stroll through history. The 400 Shinto shrines, 1,600 Buddhist temples, numerous gardens, historic sites, and museums testify to the significant level of culture the city has to offer.

Kyoto has maintained its high level of artistic and cultural achievement. It is still the center of traditional arts and crafts in Japan, with the historic area of Nishijin the locus of weaving and dyeing of textiles and the production of kimonos and fashion. One could rightly say that Kyoto is the textile mecca of the world in both a spiritual and material sense. The city provides both the inspiration and the means for the creation of outstanding textiles. This unique location is an ideal setting in Japan for a study-abroad program in studio art. The ancient arts of weaving, dyeing, and ceramics are still practiced today. One can still get a glimpse of graceful kimono-clad women walking in the streets and byways lined with shops selling traditional ceramics. Contemporary artists and craftsmen have adapted old methods and processes to create new variations on traditional forms as well as innovative expressions in many media that are exhibited in Japan and, indeed, around the world.

**Anticipated Excursions (subject to change)**

- Seian University of Art & Design Tour and Lunch
- Tea Ceremony
- “Five Hanamachi of Kyoto” performance
- Fushimi Inari Shrine
- Kyoto National Museum
FACULTY DIRECTOR
Sang Wook Lee is an assistant professor of fiber arts at Skidmore College and teaches courses in weaving, surface design, and advanced fiber.

Before joining the Skidmore faculty in 2009, Lee was an associate professor of fiber arts at Georgia College & State University. During his time in Georgia, he led a study-abroad program in South Korea in 2008 and also taught for the European Council of the University System of Georgia’s London Study Abroad Program in 2005.

Lee holds a B.F.A. and M.F.A. in fiber arts from Dong-A University and an M.F.A. in fiber arts from the University of Georgia. He has an extensive international and national exhibition record.

COSTS
The anticipated fee for this travel seminar to Kyoto is $6,250 (subject to fluctuation). This includes round-trip airfare from New York City area to Osaka, Japan, ground transportation for program excursions, on-site accommodations (generally double occupancy), meal allowance on class days, international medical insurance, entrance and performance fees, local guides, cultural excursions, Skidmore faculty on site, and the support of Skidmore’s Office of Off-Campus Study & Exchanges (OCSE). Accommodations will be at the Kawashima Textile School and the Rakucho Ryokan (traditional Japanese inns). The fee does not include transportation to and from the New York City area, passport and visa costs, or personal expenses.

FINANCIAL AID IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR THIS PROGRAM.

REQUIREMENTS
There are no language or course prerequisites for this summer program. There are no prerequisite skills needed. All workshops attended are at the beginner level and are led in a step-by-step manner.

TO APPLY
Please apply by FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2012.

Applications are available in Starbuck 202 and on the OCSE Web site at cms.skidmore.edu/ocse/index.cfm.

Applicants are required to submit a $250 non-refundable deposit at time of application to hold their space in the program (100% refundable if not accepted to the program). This deposit will be applied to the program fee.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For details about cost and travel logistics, please contact:

LISA HOBBS
FINANCE/PROGRAM MANAGER
Off-Campus Study & Exchanges
Starbuck Center 202
518-580-5355
lhobbs@skidmore.edu

For details about course content and academic requirements, please contact:

PROFESSOR SANG WOOK LEE
ART DEPARTMENT
Saisselin Art Building 101
518-580-5063
slee1@skidmore.edu