

**Sara & Megan's**  
**The Study of World Religions NTC**



**Announcement:**

All the terms that are on the fourth conference paper will be on the exam. Therefore, if we do not cover them in the conference, you are responsible for finding the terms in the book and knowing the definitions. The teacher will also cover the definitions in class.

The exam will be multiple choice, fill in the blanks, and short answers. The exam will be in the regular class room in OTTO MAASS. You will have an hour to complete the exam.

**Confucianism:**

Shang Ti- a word that comes from the pre-Confucian period, means God, the ultimate reality, the ultimate power. Thus, when people in pre-Confucian period referred to the supreme being, they used the word Shang Ti.

Mandate of Heaven- This is what happens when you move from polytheism into the Confucian era. The Shang-Ti, which was a personal being, becomes impersonal. Confucianism involves a less personalized ultimate reality.

Sacrifice/Augury (divination)/Ancestor Worship- The ancestors have become the form of mediation. For example, if you have a famous ancestor that has died, you could pray to them for help. If you need advice about if you should marry a person or you need financial advice, you consult your ancestors via divination practices. An example of a modern day divination practice is the Ouija Board. In order to keep your ancestors pleased, you must sacrifice. Augury means divination.

Period of the warring states- It is important to understand the political context of China in the time of Confucius. There was a powerful dynasty that held together all the provinces, but the dynasty was overthrown and all the states started warring against each other. There was a lot of violence and social turmoil. People were killed in great numbers. When you realize that you are constantly living with the fear of death, you get sick of it the way Confucius did and you try to find a way out of the political instability, which is what Confucius did. This was a period of political instability in China.

Kung Fu-tzu/ Confucius(Latinized form) – The word Fu-tzu literally means “the master.” Thus, Kung Fu-tzu means “Kung the Master.” Confucius is the Latinized form of the word. Confucius was born in the state of Lu. He lived during the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

Idealists- There was two main schools of thought that provide solutions to the problem of the warring states. The idealists provided the idea to love everybody universally. They thought if you love everybody as much as you love your family, everything will be okay

Realists/ Hen fei Tzu- This is the other political stance. Realists say that if you look around, you see all kinds of untrustworthy people. Therefore, the only real, logical solution is to draw up pragmatic laws and have the government ruthlessly enforce them. Hen fei Tzu is the chief thinker behind the realist political theory.

Mohism/Mo Tzu- Mohism is the school of idealism. Mo Tzu is the best known person of the idealists. When you think of the idealists’ world, the name Mo Tzu comes mind.

Deliberate Tradition- This is Confucius's great project. He tried to draw on both the realists and idealists views. This is a program of centered on education. It is based on the study of the five classics, which Confucius spent his time editing. Its teachings tell people how to live properly. It is a moral education.

1. Jen- the word literally means two persons. It encompasses the ideal form of relations between two persons. You can translate it to human heartedness, empathy, fellow feeling (what you feel for other people), etc.
2. Chun-Tzu- literally means superior person. The sort of person who exemplifies perfectly jen. The superior person embraces jen, he knows how to treat people right and interact kindly, etc.
3. Li- it has two meanings: propriety (proper action) and rites (ritual behaviors). When we talk about rites in a Confucian context, we are not only talking about going to the temple and praying. We also have basic daily rites. For example, you and I have daily rituals: we say hello, we shake hands, etc. In a Confucian context, there are specific steps when you meet someone or when you interact with someone.
  - a. Rectification of Names- For example, let us take a name: student. Now we have to understand what a student is. A true student will study, will be up to date, etc. Are you doing what you are supposed to be doing as a student? Another example is the word husband. If you are a husband, are you doing what you are supposed to be doing? The point is to understand what the name means and do it according to your best ability.
  - b. The Five constant relationships- Confucius broke down the whole of human society into 5 human relationships. Three have to do with family: husband/wife, elder sibling/younger sibling, and parent/child. The other two are: elder friend/younger friend and ruler/subject.
  - c. Respect for Age- People who are older than you have already been where you are and have already experienced what you are experiencing. They are a walking library of wisdom.
  - d. Respect for Family- Three of the five relationships have to do with family relationships. This shows how important family is in Confucianism.
4. Te- literally means power. Recall the realists wanted to enforce laws ruthlessly and they wanted to exert tyrannical power. This is not the same thing as this kind of power. Confucius takes this meaning of power to be the power of good example.
5. Wen- literally means the arts of peace. In contrast to the arts of war, which includes highly skilled soldiers, modern weapons, etc. Some examples of the arts of peace are: music, art work, and poetry.

The Five Chinese Classics- Ching is the Chinese word for classic. Towards the end of his life, Confucius spent all his time editing the classics so that they could be passed down to future generations.

1. I-Ching- the first Chinese classic. In English, it means the "classic of changes." We live in a world that continuously changes. This book explains to you the way the world works and changes. This is the book that people consult for divination purposes: do I visit a friend in a neighbouring town today? (consult I-ching)
2. Shi-Ching- the classic of poetry or odes. You read the Shi-ching if you want to be inspired by someone's delightful versus.
3. Li-Chi- the classic of rituals. Recall, Li meant propriety or rituals. This book explains what Li is.
4. Shu-Ching- The classic of history- more specifically the history of China.
5. Ch'in-Ch'iu- The spring and autumn annals. This is the history of the province of Lu- compared to the shu-ching which is about the history of China. Shu-Ching and Ch'in-Ch'iu differ in what history they discuss. When Confucius edited these classics he wanted to convey a point: if you are a ruler and think you can do anything (i.e. abuse your power), well you must know that history will remember you and it

will remember you badly. Even if you find yourself in a position of power and think you owe yourself to no one, you actually owe yourself to your descendants.

Hsin- If you want to change the empire, (remember when Confucius is writing the empire is broken and warring) you have to change the province/state. If you want to change the state, you have to change the family. If you want to change the family, you have to change yourself. If you want to change yourself, you have to change your heart. If you want to change your heart, you have to change your mind. You can then work backwards in this list, and change the empire. You can restore harmony and order the empire. The central feature is that you have to change yourself. The word Hsin means heart mindedness. Heart mindedness means self.

Shu (books) - These are not the classics that Confucius edited, these are books that he wrote himself.

1. Lun Yu/ The analects-conversations between Confucius and his disciples.
2. Ta Hsuen- the great learning. Deliberate tradition, hsin (heart mindedness)- all these principles are taught in this book. This book contains the outline for the Confucian education, which has as its ultimate goal social harmony.
3. Chung Yung- The middle way. With respect to oneself this means to live a balanced life between excess/indulgence and asceticism. With respect to realism and idealism, it is to take a middle course. Do not love everyone but also do not be tyrannical.
4. Mentzu/Mencius- Mencius was Confucius's most well known disciple. If anyone is responsible for the fact that Confucianism is so well known today is because of Mencius. Mencius wrote the book called Mentzu. Mentzu is a summary of the Confucian teachings.

Ch'in dynasty- they practice a realist politics. Through ruthless force, they tried to gather all the states into a single empire. They used their army to impose unity between all the states. The Ch'in dynasty only lasted a single generation because everyone hated them. The Ch'in dynasty was overthrown by the Han dynasty.

Han Dynasty- took Confucius's teachings and built a state that lasted more than a millennium. The program was founded on Confucius's bases. It taught people how to behave towards others and it lasted.