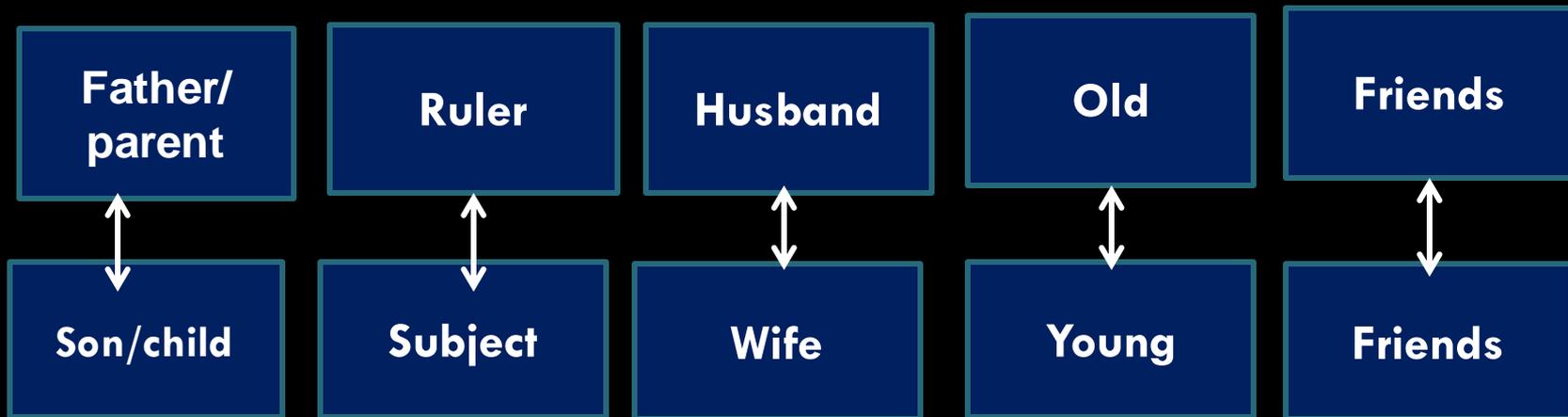


# Introduction

- Ideas about Confucianism
- Relationships and obedience
- Contemporary ideas re women
- Japan and Shinto
- Animation
- Studio Ghibli films and gender roles
- Yin Yang
- Buddhism, Buddhism and gender
- Films
- Learning outcome: assess critically the ways in which gender are constituted and/or challenged in and through particular forms of culture (Eastern philosophies)

# Core values and beliefs

- Five relationships



- People are teachable and improvable
- Knowledge is key to virtue rather than power

# Bonds

- Three bonds

Ruler



Subject

Father/  
Parent



Son/Child

Husband



Wife

- Proper respect for rules, parents
- Obedience is central
- Analects
- **Honouring of ancestors**

# Confucian Thought

- Confucianism highlighted (4.29 mins)



# Confucianism and Women

- Reputation for repressive attitudes towards women
- Submission and obedience
- Home – place for women (internal)
- Husband – external
- [Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon](#) (1.32 mins)



# Contemporary Confucianism

- 1990s new scholarship
- More favourable position for women
- Everyone can improve themselves through education and self cultivation
- Re-examination of assumptions
- Sexist interpretations rather than inherent sexism

# Japan

- Blend of Shinto, Buddhism, Confucius, Taoism, folk traditions
- Shinto – myths and beliefs
- Public shrines
- Different gods
- Spirits, gods, essences (kami)
- Contemporary Shinto may not associate with kinship/territory
- See <https://youtu.be/GTjmHjY-A7I> (9.00 mins)



# Gender and Japan

- Traditionally subordinate to men
- But many changes during 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries
- Animation
  - Anime=Japanese film, TV animation
  - Manga=Japanese comic books & graphic novels for girls and boys



# Studio Ghibli

- Princess Mononoke – Box office success in Japan
- Buddhism – oneness of all things
- Strong female role models
- Young women, female infants in leading roles
- Judged on character, skill, integrity
- Shinto – gods and spirits in everything
- Concept of *Ma* = space/pause for thought
- Moments of stillness

# Films

- [Princess Mononoke trailer](#) (2.08 mins)
- [Spirited Away](#) (2.26 mins)
- [Howl's Moving Castle](#) (1.35 mins)



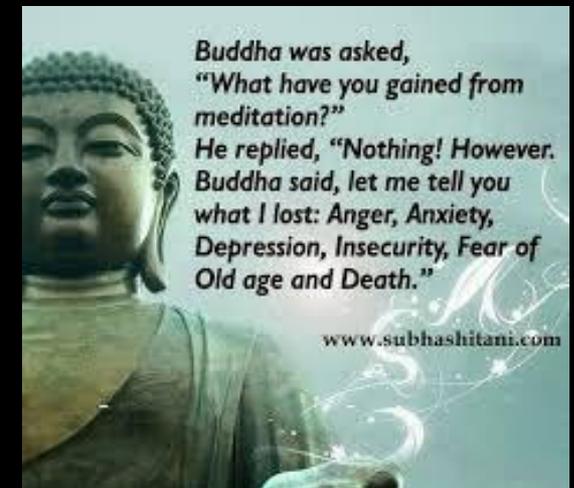
# Yin Yang

- Yang (masculine/superior)
- Yin (feminine/inferior)
- [Short basic introduction to Yin/Yang](#) (3.24 mins)



# Buddhism (6<sup>th</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Century BC)

- Personal spiritual development
- Nirvana/enlightenment
- Individuals are reincarnated and experience suffering
- No state – good, bad – lasts forever
- Rituals and practices e.g. meditation



# Women, Men and Buddhism



- Women were allowed to join Buddha's monastic community
- But there have been positive and negative attitudes to women and femininity
- E.g. women responsible for downfall of human race
- Whether women can attain nirvana
- Family life – wives should be
  - Self controlled, caretakers, companions, submissive
- Kung Fu Panda (2.54 mins)
- Lucy trailer (2.31 mins)

# Summary

- Confucianism defined by relationships
- Confucianism has been seen as repressive to women
- Reinterpretations suggest that Confucianism need not be sexist
- Shinto, Buddhism, Yin Yang
- Studio Ghibli films and positive gender roles
- Essay question: Explore the role of philosophy in relation to gender. You can focus on any aspect (e.g. Confucianism, Shinto, Buddhism, Yin Yang, etc.).
- Drawing on your own textual analysis, explore one concept that has been studied on this module – look at Anime, Manga, Studio Ghibli films – in relation to gender (either femininity and or masculinity)

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