

Week 4: Eastern philosophies (religion) and Gender)

Assignment analysis of plan:

Look at the example of the plan: Explore female identity on Instagram AND Masculinity in James Bond

Why do you think these received an A grade?

What have they done well/not so well?

How many references should you have in the reference list?

Can you include references that you have not referred to in the essay?

Questions and topics

1. Quiz on Confucianism from Everywhere Poll on this topic.

<https://www.polleverywhere.com/my/polls>

Questions relating to Yin and Yang in James Bond films

1. How does Yang relate to the Bond films that you are aware of (or from the reading)?
2. How does Yin relate to the Bond films that you are aware of (or from the reading)?
3. What are the seeds of change? How do these relate to the Bond films?

Questions relating to Anime

1. Thinking about Anime of any sort – can you apply ideas from Eastern philosophies/religion to anime that you are familiar with?

Saito, K. (2014) Magic, Shojo and Metamorphosis: Magical Girl Anime and the challenges of changing gender identities in Japanese society. *Journal of Asian Studies*. Vol. 73(10, pp. 143-164.

Extract from: Saito (2014:161-162)

The magical girl, a popular genre of girls' television animation program in Japan, has closely reflected shifting ideas of gender roles in society. The classic magical girl anime from the late 1960s and 1970s underscored the interim period of "shojo" before marriage that allows a girl to enjoy temporal freedom from future obligations as a woman. The new magical girls of the next decade developed the idea that the magical girl's mission is now solely to be cute and lovable so as to provide viewers in and outside the text visual enjoyment.

Questions:

1. Look up the terms Shojo and Shonen define them?
2. What are the implications of these?

p.161 'The contemporary magical girl's utopian identity, embedded in shojoeness, whose power is generated from cuteness, raises questions about the current understanding of the Japanese cool or cute as power. Are these magical girls exploring new gender ideals or demonstrating meaningful alternatives to predetermined gender norms in Japan? Of course, transgressive gender models in the pop media always have the potential to question and mobilize existing p.162 systems, thereby conceptualizing more performative representations of gender.

Questions:

1. What transgressive gender models are you aware of in relation to anime that either challenge or reinforce existing systems?

p.162 'The empowerment of female heroes visualized in the magical girl genre has developed symbiotically with heterosexual norms in society: fighting girls and cross-dressing boys in the magical girl tropes function as counter-agencies to anxieties about conventional gender roles undertaken in reality.'

Questions::

1. In the anime that you are aware of, are heterosexual norms reinforced? Why/why not?