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
Three bonds

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

Bonds

- Ruler
  - Subject
- Father/Parent
  - Son/Child
- Husband
  - Wife
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-AZI](https://youtu.be/GTjmHjY-AZI) (9.00 mins)
Gender and Japan

- Traditionally subordinate to men
- But many changes during 20th and 21st 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 (6th-4th 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)
• 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)
References