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The Analects & Confucius

Lesson Plan:

The students will examine the sayings of Confucius as recorded in the *Analects* and then compare and contrast them with maxims from the ancient Hebrews they have studied.

Level/Class:

This lesson will be taught to tenth grade students in a competitive, independent, college preparatory World Literature survey course.

Objectives:

The students will examine and evaluate the importance of the teachings of Confucius in Chinese culture. They will also begin to understand that the ancient teachings of another culture have now become globally relevant. To begin this process, the students will listen and take notes during a lecture introducing Confucius and the *Analects*. They will take notes on the basics of Confucianism and then they will be asked to read selected passages from the *Analects* that are anthologized in the textbook. The following day, the students will watch a biographical video on Confucius and his teachings. At the conclusion of the second day, the students will be assigned a brief writing assignment that will ask them to compare and contrast the teachings of Confucius with those of the *Proverbs* of the ancient Hebrews. They will be asked to evaluate not only content, but also the tone and style of the maxims.

Time Period:

This lesson will take two 45 minute class periods of instruction and will also include an evening reading assignment on the first night and a writing assignment on the second night.

Materials Needed:

PowerPoint on Confucius

McCambridge, Patricia (Ed.), *Elements of literature: world literature*, Austin, TX: Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, 2006.

Confucius [video], United States: A&E Home Video, 1996.

Writing Assignment

Assessment:

The students will write a brief essay comparing and contrasting the content, tone, and style of the *Analects* and the *Proverbs* of the ancient Hebrews. In addition, the students will be asked to present their findings in a discussion in class. The final assessment will be included in the examination on Ancient Chinese and Japanese Literature.