World Cultures ~ Weekly Assignments
Dr. Plummer
Spring 2008

Week 5: Feb. 11, 13, 15

Topic: Confucianism

Film: Shower
The reading is in the activity guide.

Reminders: If you’re having difficulties with the weekly quizzes, why not stop by office hours? Amanda’s hours are Wed 10-12 and Nat’s hours are Thurs 12-2.

When you’re reading the Visual History excerpts, focus on the broad ideas. Don’t get bogged down in dates and lots of names. Look for general ideas about places, culture, and big historical events. If the name of a country or region is unfamiliar to you, be sure to look it up in an atlas.

Readings:

Eastman:
“Selections, The Analects” pp. 176—186
“Selections, The Book of Mencius” pp. 186—193
“Confucian Self-Realization” pp. 193—201
“Confuciansim in Perspective” pp. 201—206

Visual History:
“The Religions of China” p. 67
“China’s First Emperors” pp. 152—153
“China After the Han Dynasty” pp. 242—243

Word List:

Religious Humanism    Ceremony    Meng-tzu
Confucius             The Analects
K’ung Fu-tzu          The Book of Mencius  chun tzu
Rite                  Mencius
Places to Find:
China.

Study Questions:

1. Compare *The Analects* with the 5 Precepts of Buddhism. Do they encompass the same ideas or are they contradictory in some way? Is one more prescriptive than the other?

2. Explain why Confucianism can be considered a religion when it is neither theistic nor atheistic.

3. Who was Confucius? What were his goals? Set Confucianism in history: What was happening in China during Confucius’s life?