

Understanding Chinese Etiquette

Li-Yun Liao

UCL Centre for Languages and International Education (CLIE)



Language and Culture
SHOW AND TELL
M A N D A R I N





Chinese culture: past and present





'you' 'good'



**Chinese people will also
shake hands**





作揖
zuò yī







Portrait of Confucius

Chinese Philosopher, wearing the traditional costume of a scholar and carrying a symbol of administrative office, with library behind; an illustration for Philippe Couplet, *Confucius Sinarum Philosophus* (Paris, 1687), by Anonymus, French,

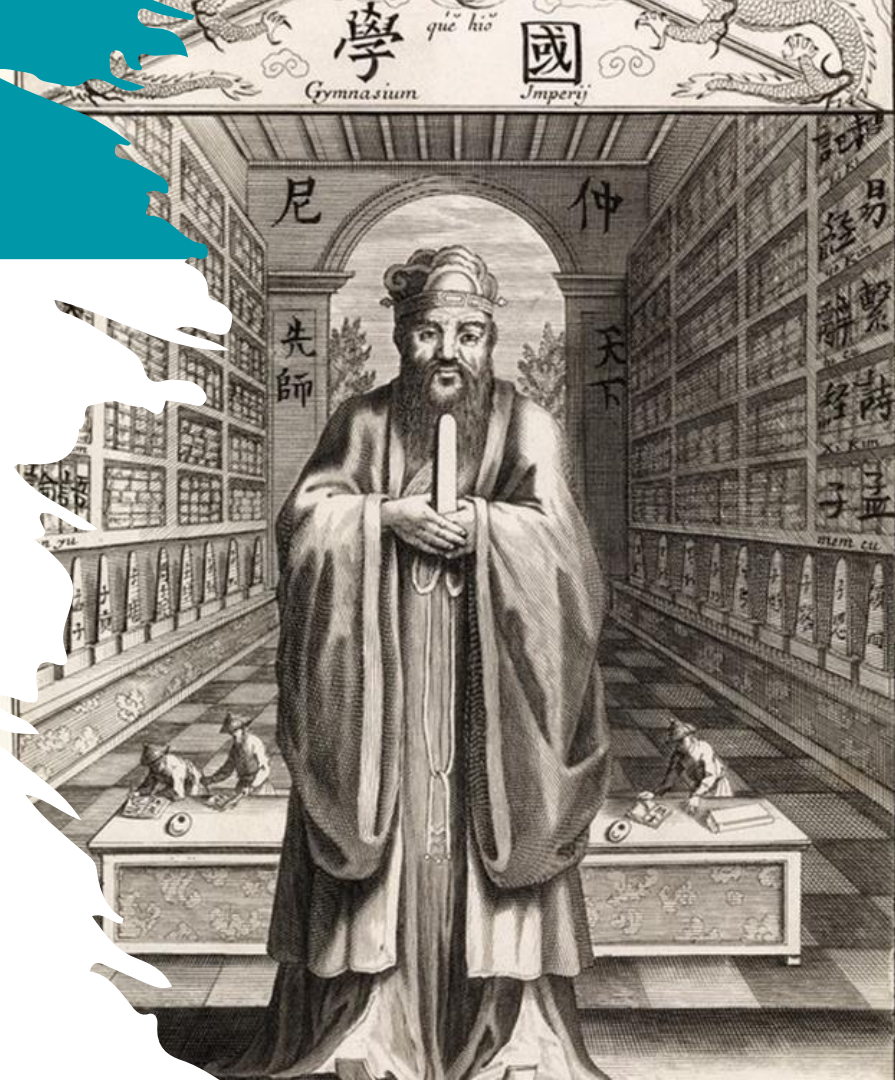
engraving on paper, circa 1687.





The Rites of Zhou

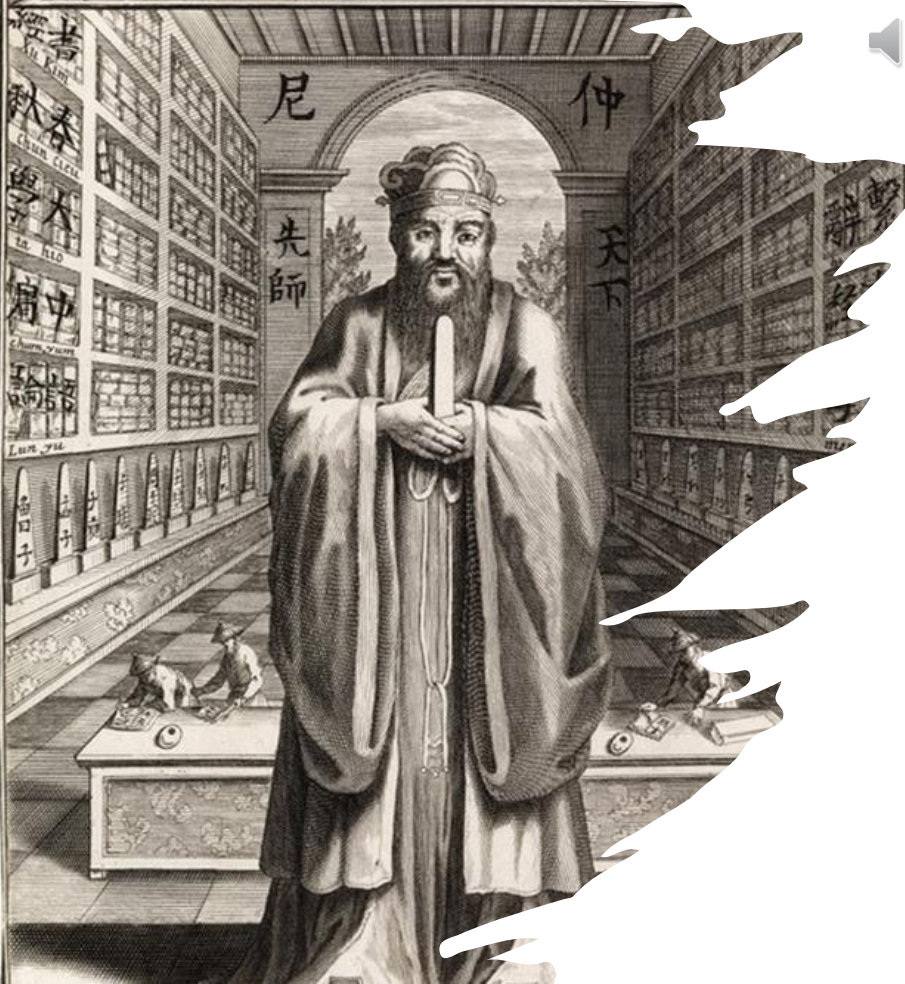
- 周礼 Zhōu lǐ
- (The Rites of Zhou)
- dating from the middle of the 2nd century BCE
- Originally known as 周官 Zhōuguān (Officers of Zhou): Etiquette and Rituals



學

Gymnasium

que ho



Confucius's 作揖 zuò yī

- 作揖 zuò yī
- to make a slight bow with the hands folded in front

- 拱手礼 gǒng shǒu lǐ
- to cup one hand over the other in front of the chest



The status of 'left' and 'right'





The status of 'right' and 'left' in classical Chinese

左迁

zuǒ qiān

(left shift / shifting to the left)



The right

口 kǒu = mouth



The left

工 gōng = manual labour



男左女右

nán zuǒ nǚ yòu

(male left female right)





阳 yáng

simplified version:

日 rì (sun)

阴 yīn

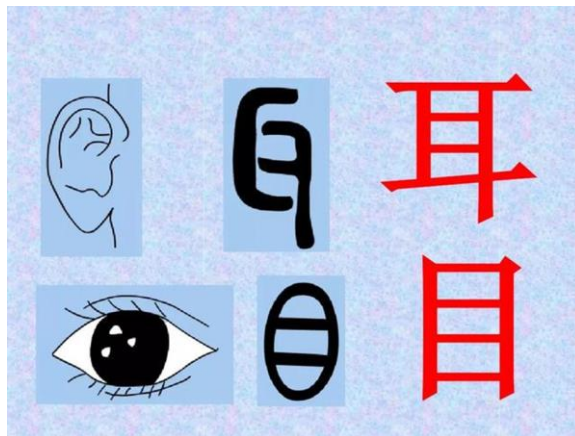
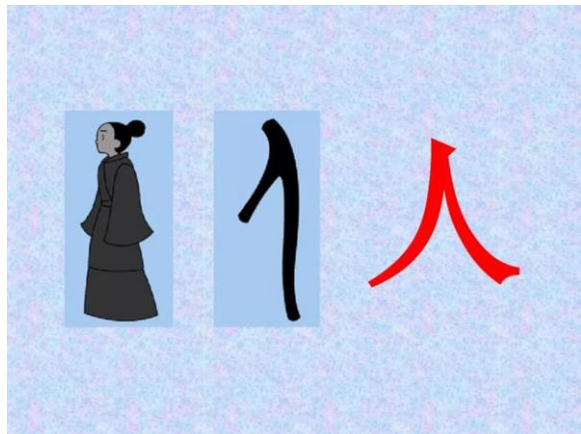
simplified version:

月 yuè (moon)





Pictograms



Portrait of Confucius

Chinese Philosopher, wearing the traditional costume of a scholar and carrying a symbol of administrative office, with library behind; an illustration for Philippe Couplet, *Confucius Sinarum Philosophus* (Paris, 1687), by Anonymous, French, engraving on paper, circa 1687.

