

Postgraduate Assignment coversheet & feedback form

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(DO NOT SEND AS A SEPARATE FILE)

For completion by the student:		
Student Name: Xinyu Zhang		
Module code: SICH7028 Module title: Interpretation of the Four Books	Student ID number: 2016173	Educational support needs: Yes / No
Module tutor: Prof Ching-Chuan Chang Assignment due date: 31/10/2025		
If your module has multiple submissions please indicate which piece of work this is. 1 st ☒ 2 nd ☐ 3 rd ☐ 4 th ☐ 5 th ☐ 6 th ☐		
Word count:		
I confirm that this is my original work and that I have adhered to the University policy on plagiarism. Signed <u>Xinyu Zhang</u>		
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Assignment Mark	
1st Marker's Provisional mark	
2nd Marker's/Moderator's provisional mark	
Agreed Internal Mark:	
External Examiner's mark (if relevant)	
Final Mark	
NB. All marks are provisional until confirmed by the Final Examination Board.	

For completion by Marker 1:

Comments:

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Comments:

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Comment on process on arriving at agreed mark:

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I confirm that I have not used any AI tools in the research and creation of this assignment. I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated materials as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used, which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

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An Introduction to Confucius'

Core Teachings :

Poetry, Rituals and Music

Module code : SICH7028

Module tutor: Prof Ching-Chuan Chang

Student name: Xinyu Zhang(2016173)

Date : 28 October 2025



1.

What are the Teachings of Confucius?

2



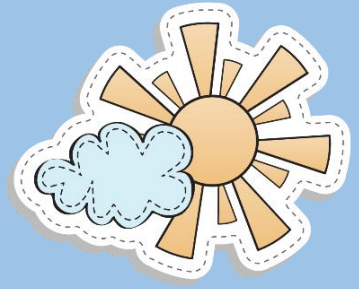
Story



Kong Li
孔鯉



Chen Gang
陳亢



Have you had any special lesson from your father?



No, I have not. Only once when he was standing alone, and I happened to pass through the hall, he said to me : 'Have you studied **poetry**?' to which I replied, 'No, I have not.'

'Then,' said he, 'if you do not study poetry, you cannot make yourself agreeable in conversation.'

After that I gave myself to the study of poetry.

Have you had any special lesson from your father?



On another occasion when he was again standing alone. and I happened to pass through the hall, he said to me: 'Have you studied the rituals, to which I replied, 'No, I have not.' **'Then , ' said he, 'if you do not study the rituals, you cannot uphold your aspirations.** After that, I gave myself to the study of the rituals.

I have asked about one thing and now have learnt about three things. I have learnt about **the importance of the study of poetry and rituals**, and also that a virtuous man does not treat even his own son with familiarity.





「孔子以詩、書、禮、樂教弟子。」

— 《史記》

Confucius taught his disciples through *The Canon of Poetry, The Canon of Ancient Documents*, rituals and music.

Records of the Historian



The Canon of Poetry →

9

*The Canon of
Ancient Documents* →

2

Rituals →

44

Music →

15



Confucius' Teachings :

The Canon of Poetry

Rituals

Music



2.

What are the Core Connotation of These Teachings?

Poetry

Rituals

Music

11

Shi 詩

Li 禮

Yue 樂

Poetry

Poetry

詩經

詩經卷之三

鄭一之七

鄭邑名。本在西都畿內成林之。宣王以封其弟友爲采地。後爲幽王司徒。而死於太戎之難。是爲桓公。其子武公。掘突。定平王於東都。亦爲司徒。又得甄柏之地。乃徙其封而施舊號於新邑。是爲新鄭。成林。在今華州。鄭縣新鄭。卽今之鄭州。是也。其封城山川詳見拾畧。

緇衣之宜兮。敝予又改爲兮。適子之館。

叶反。

今還予授子之粢兮。

賦也。緇。黑色。緇衣。卿大夫居私朝之服也。宜。稱。

改。史通之。館。舍。粢。食也。或曰。衆。衆之精。聖者。○舊說。鄭桓公武公相繼爲周司徒。善於其職。周人愛之。故作是詩。言子之服緇衣也。其宜。敝則我將爲子更爲之。且將適子之館。既。

Poetry

Poetry

13

Translated by myself.

「詩者，志之所之也。

在心為志，發言為詩。」

——〈毛詩序〉

A poem is the expression of author's aspiration.

What resides in the heart is aspiration and what
expresses by words is a poem.

Maoshi xu

Poetry

Poetry



Poetry

Rituals

Rituals



Poetry



Rituals



Rituals

禮

Li

Poetry

Rituals

Rituals

「禮，履也，所以事神致福也。」

——《說文解字》

Li means a kind of behaviour that people
use to serve the spirits for getting blessings.

Shuowen jiezi

Poetry

Rituals

Rituals



Reverence

Poetry

Rituals

「脩身踐言謂之善行，行脩言道，
禮之質也。」

——《禮記》

Rituals

Good behaviour refers to self-cultivation and keeping promises. Cultivating one's moral character and speaking good words is the essence of *Li*.

The Records of Rites



Music/Song





voice



/



↓
voice



↓
language



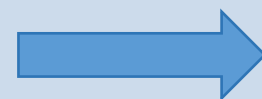
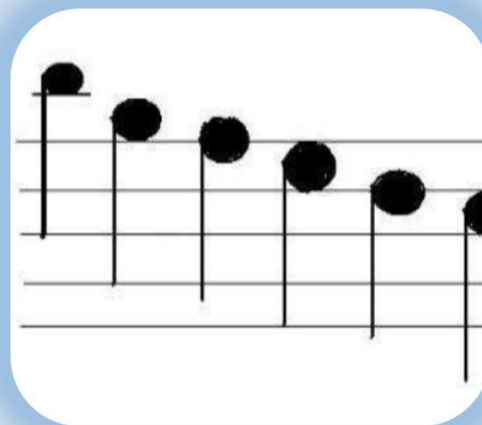
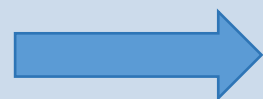
↓
voice



↓
language



×
language



language

music tones
yin 音

music
yue 樂



「禮云禮云，玉帛云乎哉？

樂云樂云，鐘鼓云乎哉？」

——《論語》

Music/Song

Ritual, ritual! Does it mean no more than presents of jade and silk? Music, music!

Does it mean no more than bells and drums?



「行而樂之，樂也。」

「樂者，天地之和也。」

——《禮記》

When people engage with music, they would
feel happiness .

Music symbolizes the harmony of the world.

The Records of Rites

Music/Song



3.

The functional Value of These Teachings?

Poetry

Shi 詩

Rituals

Li 禮

Music

Yue 樂

Poetry

「詩可以興，可以觀，可以群，可以怨，
邇之事父，遠之事君，多識於鳥獸草木之名。」

——《論語》

The poetry will help you to incite people's emotions, to observe their feelings, to keep company, to express your grievances. They may be used at home in the service of one's father, abroad, in the service of one's prince. Moreover, they will widen your acquaintance with the names of birds, beasts, plants and trees.



Have you had any special lesson from your father?



No, I have not. Only once when he was standing alone, and I happened to pass through the hall, he said to me : 'Have you studied poetry?' to which I replied, 'No,I have not.'

'Then,'said he, 'if you do not study poetry, you cannot make yourself agreeable in conversation.' After that I gave myself to the study of poetry.



Translated by Gu Hongming.

「誦詩三百，授之以政，不達，使於四方，不能專對，雖多亦奚以為？」

——《論語》

The Master said, ‘A man may be able to recite the three hundred poems, but, if when given a post in the government, he cannot turn his merits to account, or when sent on a mission to far parts he cannot answer particular questions, however extensive his knowledge may be, of what use is it to him?’

Poetry



Poetry

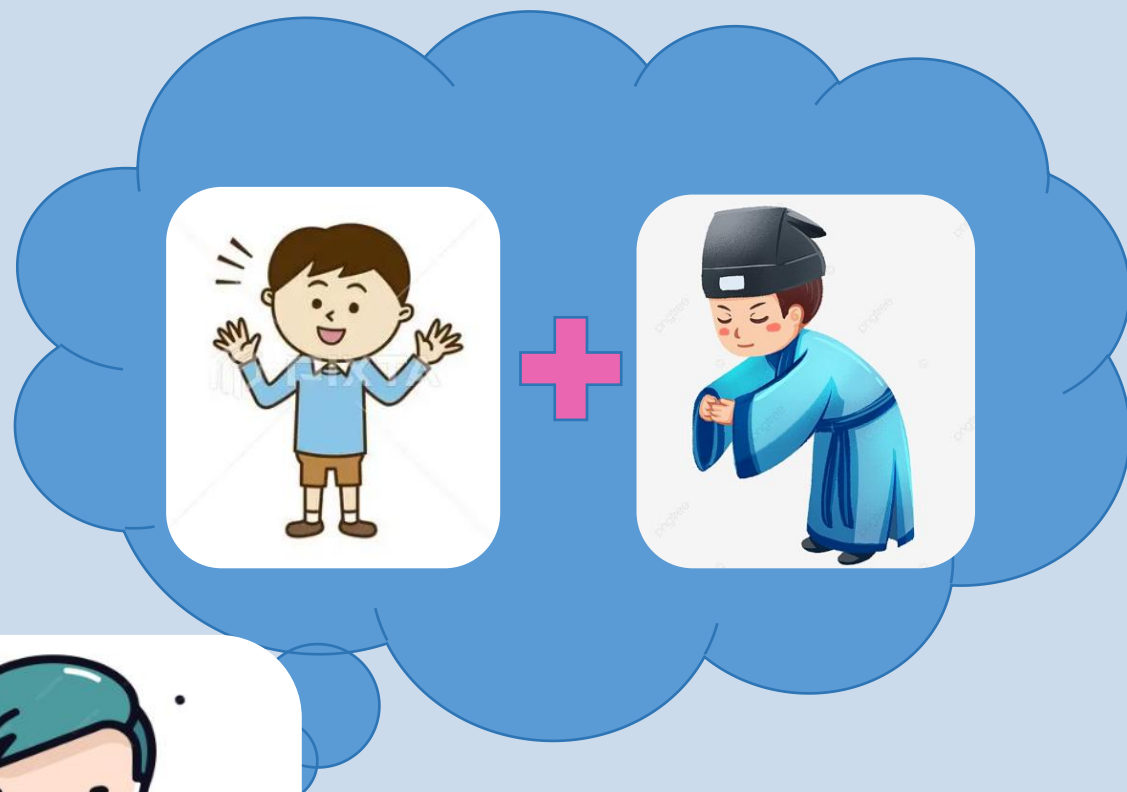
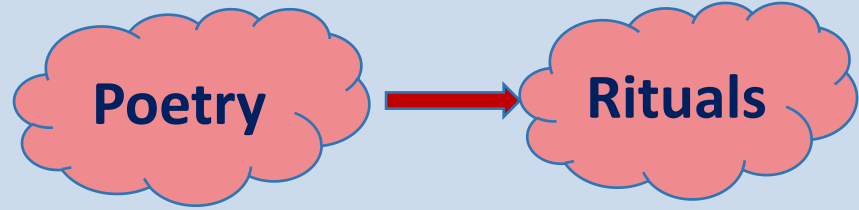
Rituals

「鸚鵡能言不離飛鳥，猩猩能言不離走獸。今人而無禮，不亦禽獸之心乎？」

——《禮記》

Parrots are able to speak, but they are still birds. Gorillas are able to speak, but they are still beasts. If people act without proprieties, is there any difference between their hearts and beasts'?

Rituals



≠



Poetry

Rituals

「非禮物視，非禮勿聽，
非禮勿言，非禮勿動。」

——《論語》

Rituals

To look at nothing in defiance of ritual, to listen
to nothing in defiance of ritual, to speak of
nothing in defiance of ritual, never to stir hand
or foot in defiance of ritual.

Poetry

Rituals

「君子義以為質，禮以行之。」

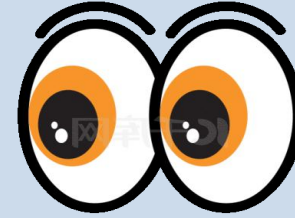
——《論語》

Rituals

The Master said, ‘The gentleman who takes the right as his material to work upon and ritual as the guide in putting what is right into practice.’

Poetry

Rituals





「禮以治躬，樂以治心。」

——《禮記》

Li is for people's behaviours; *Yue* is
for people's hearts.

The Records of Rites

Music



「禮樂不可斯須去身，致樂以治心，則易
直子諒之心生矣！」

——《禮記》

*People should not forget Li and Yue even
for a second. And by using music to
nourish their minds, a forgiving and
sincere heart will appear .*

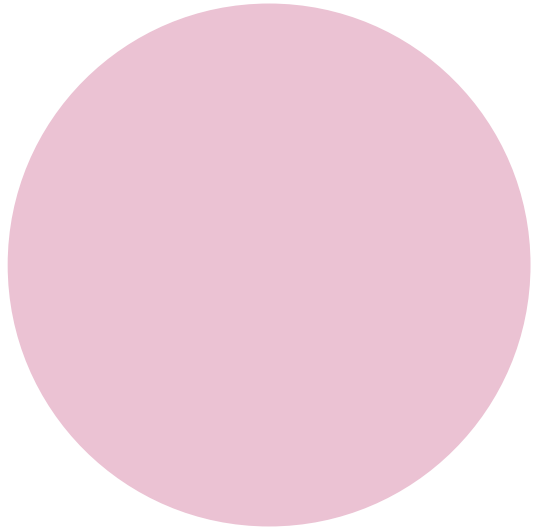
Music



4.

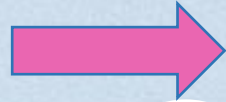
Conclusion





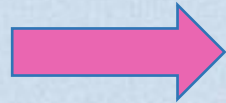
Conclusion

Poetry



Speech

Rituals



Action

Music



Heart



Thank you for listening!

