

11/11: Notes for Confucious, the *Analects*

Sayings/ Passages	Ideas
9.22	gentleman
2.15	good leader
4.25	knowledge
14.25	self-improvement
13.5	humanity
7.15	ritual
8.2	

- What is a ritual, as mentioned in the readings?
 - Understood as:
 - Anything considered ceremony
 - Respect for ancestors, elderly
 - Nothing formal- idea of having principle, focus
 - E.g. capping ceremony, funerals, court, ancestors, day to day life (etiquette)
 - Is ritual important?
 - People are drawn toward rituals, traditions (eg traditions at Wabash)
- Confucius' definition/ mentioning of ritual the same? Odd?
 - Rituals can guide your life, if taken seriously
 - Many rituals are below the surface
- Idea of being a gentleman
 - Almost Socratic method- no exact answer found
 - 4.16- Gentleman understands what is right
 - Compare to gentleman's rule here at Wabash College
- Is Confucius saying "gentleman" is a natural-born quality?
 - It is a blend of born qualities and actions in culture
- Gentleman- embodies all virtuous qualities we strive for
 - Good leader
 - Acquirement of knowledge
 - Self-improvement
 - Humanity
 - Focus on ritual
- 16.9- is one born with wisdom?
 - Where would Confucius put himself
 - Both born and acquired

- Humanity
 - 5.12- Confucius does not describe humanity
 - could be self-determining quality, idea