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Brendan Malone

## **Introduction to Chinese Religions**

**Intro:** The major religions in China play a role in society. The students will be required to know what the religions are in China, how they developed, and each religions belief structure. We will focus on the differences between Buddhism and Confucianism, which could be an array of things, for example, Confucianism is more of a philosophy, and Buddhism is a religion. Students as homework will research a religion and find out the founder of the religion, the name of each religions deity, the religions holy book, and the basic beliefs of each religion.

-Through lectures, readings, and photo viewing students will become knowledgeable on both Chinese religions and their roles in Chinese society.

### **Main Points:**

- There are two main religions in China, Confucianism and Buddhism.
- Buddhism arrived in China from India, and Confucianism has played a role in the social order of things in China, for over 2000 years.

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### **Objectives:**

- Know the difference between Buddhism and Confucianism.
- Know the founder, deity (Confucius (Viewed by many as a god) and the Buddha had no deity), holy book (no one book for Buddhism, the Analects, the five classes for Confucianism), and basic beliefs.
- Know how each religion started in China.

### **Teaching Methods:**

When teaching this in class the students will have already finished some readings on the subject, and participate in a lecture/discussion on the subject matter. Students will also view pictures dealing with these religions (Confucianism and Buddhism) such as Buddhist temples etc. Through viewing these pictures students will get a better grasp of the religions, and will give them time to enjoy viewing pictures of things they have yet to see. Students will have to research the two religions for homework.

### **Bibliography:**

#### Student Materials

<http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/cultural/religion/.religious>

This site contains information on all religions; students can search both religions on this site.

[http://raider.muc.edu/re/worldreligions/buddhism\\_vs\\_confucianism.htm](http://raider.muc.edu/re/worldreligions/buddhism_vs_confucianism.htm)

This site compares and contrasts both religions.

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Beck, Roger, Linda Black, Phillip Naylor, Dahia Ibo Shabaka. World History:

Patterns of Interaction. Evanston, Illinois : McDougal Little 1999.

Ching, Julia. Chinese Religions. Oracle Books. 1993.

#### Teaching Materials

Beck, Roger, Linda Black, Phillip Naylor, Dahia Ibo Shabaka. World History:

Patterns of Interaction, Annotated Teacher's Edition. Evanston, Illinois :  
1999.

Ebrey, Patricia Buckley, Anne Walthall, James Palais. East Asia: A Cultural,  
Social, and Political History. Boston, MA: 2006.

This lesson is meant for one class period (45 minutes).

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## Chinese Religions

Homework

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Buddhism***

1. Who is the founder of Buddhism? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where did Buddhism originate? \_\_\_\_\_.
3. True or False? There is a deity in Buddhism? \_\_\_\_\_
4. List the 8 noble truths.

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### ***Confucianism***

1. Who is the founder of Confucianism? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the two holy books of Confucianism? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is Confucianism more of a religion or a philosophy? \_\_\_\_\_
4. List the basic beliefs of Confucianism

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