

Some Key Confucian Terms

Wade-Giles	Pinyin	Meaning
<i>jen</i>	<i>ren</i>	humanity, benevolence, human-heartedness, charity, kindness, “goodness,” love, co-humanity, derived from character for “man” and character for “two”
<i>shu</i>	<i>shu</i>	reciprocity, acting for others (as in the golden rule), fellow-feeling, mutual consideration
<i>chun-tzu</i>		superior person, gentleman
<i>yi</i>	<i>yi</i>	righteousness, duty to one’s neighbor, right conduct, morality
<i>li</i>	<i>li</i>	propriety, good manners, politeness, ceremony, ritual
<i>li</i>	<i>li</i>	principle, ordering principle
<i>i</i>	<i>yi</i>	righteousness, duty to one’s neighbor, right conduct, morality
<i>hsiao</i>	<i>xiao</i>	filial piety
<i>hsin</i>	<i>xin</i>	mind, heart
<i>wen</i>	<i>wen</i>	culture
<i>tao</i>	<i>dao</i>	way, path
<i>te</i>	<i>de</i>	virtue, character
<i>ch’eng</i>		sincerity, genuineness, “authenticity”
<i>chung-yung</i>	<i>zhong-yung</i>	central harmony
<i>chung</i>	<i>zhong</i>	conscientiousness, self-rectification
<i>chih</i>	<i>zhi</i>	wisdom, judgment
<i>yang</i>	<i>yang</i>	(principle of universal change) heaven, light, manifest, male
<i>yin</i>	<i>yin</i>	(principle of universal change) earth, dark, hidden, female
<i>t’ien</i>	<i>tian</i>	heaven, moral order (as in “mandate of heaven”)
<i>ch’i</i>	<i>qi</i>	energy, force