

Intro to Chinese Culture: Through Another Window
Balance Through Acting/Comp II/Chinese Lit

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Here are some ideas ways to provide students through a global lens to think critically and reflect on the themes of the class.

Lesson on Reflection

At the beginning of each class write a quote on the board, usually something from the *Dao de Jing*, *The Analects* or the *Buddha Sutras*. We use the Roger Ames translations of the *Dao* and *Analects*. Copies are in the MCC library. Students then take a moment and reflect on the day's quote and what it means to them by writing in their journal. Calming music plays in the background, creating a relaxing atmosphere.

Gail Mooney and I have found that this is a wonderful way to begin each class as it gets the students thinking right away, and allows them to be open to new ideas.

We discuss the quote afterwards.

Here's another activity that promotes cultural literacy.

Lesson on Words as Images

Periodically through the course we choose a poem. We write words separately from the poem in big letters on a large piece of paper (one word for each page). Students take markers, go up to each word, and write the first thing that comes to mind – what the word makes them think of. After all of the students have written on each word, we discuss the results with the whole class. It's a great way to illustrate how people see words in different ways.

Then we break into groups, and each group takes three of the words (no looking!) so it's random. As a group, the students create a tableau that reflects these three words.

Discussion afterwards always produces outcomes of insight into the power and magic of words, the differences and similarities of cultural associations, and how to navigate those uncomfortable spaces between cultures.