

ANTIGONE

in China



The Challenge:

Introduce 1L students at Peking University's new School of Transnational Law to Western cultural traditions, common law, and the American legal system

The Project:

-Seven hours of instruction in the study of law during Orientation Week

PLUS:

-Daily application of these new skills to the 2500 year old Greek masterpiece *Antigone* by Sophocles

-A mid-week staged reading in a Greek-style amphitheatre

-On the final night, a moot trial: "The City of Thebes v. Antigone"



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The Outcome:

-Taught similarities and differences between literary and legal analysis

-Reinforced the benefits of governmental checks and balances

-Introduced the Classical foundations of Western law and culture

-Provided emotional ties and a creative release to an intense first week

-Exposed students to aspects of legal practice including research, analysis, advocacy, and witness examination

-Encouraged reading out loud and public speaking in English

-Supplied American faculty and Chinese students with common ground