Modern Chinese Philosophy
Spring, 2012
Wikipedia Contribution Assignment

現代中國哲學
2012 年春天

This assignment should be completed by the end of any of the Essay Cycles in which you are not preparing an essay. You must already have completed the Wikipedia Prep Assignment.

The goals of this assignment are fourfold:
- To research a topic related to the course, but in more detail than is covered in the course readings and class discussion;
- To clearly and succinctly present that information and your sources, including balanced presentation of disputed points and philosophical arguments;
- To contribute to general knowledge of your subject, both through your contribution itself, and by including links to relevant Wikipedia entries (and, as relevant, adding links to your own entry);
- To participate in the on-going process of knowledge creation by monitoring the status of your page (or edits), and by participating in discussion and edits of your own page and those of classmates.

Step One: Topic
- By reading around in Wikipedia, in light of our class topics and discussions, locate a possible topic. It should either have no existing entry, be a "stub" entry that has little information, or perhaps be a more substantial entry that lacks information on the issue on which you will focus.
- Send me your proposed topic in an email. You must include:
    o Title of entry, and URL(s) of existing entries that are relevant
    o A short paragraph describing the scope of your proposed research and the eventual full entry
    o A summary of any existing discussion on the Talk sections of relevant entries.
- I must receive this email no later than **one week prior to the deadline** for the cycle in which you are doing this assignment.

Step Two: Research and writing
- Research and compose your entry. Your target should be roughly 1000 words (either in a new entry, or added to an existing entry). There is considerably flexibility here, depending on topic. Keep in mind that you are composing an encyclopedia article, not writing a typical college essay. Be guided by the many sources of help on Wikipedia itself, such as: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Your_first_article
- You are also encouraged to consult Wesleyan librarian Kendall Hobbs, <khobbs@wesleyan.edu>, who is familiar with this assignment and would be happy to

help you locate sources and think about the research and writing process. Please contact him adequately in advance!

- You must use at least eight different sources, including both on-line and off-line materials. Be sure to cite them within the text via in-text footnotes.
- When you are ready, create your entry or input your edits. Be sure to include links to other relevant entries.
- Once done, be sure to create a PDF of the entry (on a Mac this can be done using the Print command, and then save-as-PDF), and send me both the PDF and the URL of the entry. This must be sent to me **by the deadline for the cycle in which you are completing the assignment**.

Step Three: Follow-up

- You are not yet done! Over the next few days after you have posted your entry and turned it in, periodically check in on your entry. Keep an eye on the Talk page, and keep a record of what happens there. Participate in any discussion that emerges. Note any changes to your entry. You are encouraged to make changes to your entry, either in response to comments or just things you decide to add or change.
- Locate at least two other relevant entries—ideally, but not necessarily, those done by fellow classmates (I will post a list of links on Moodle)—and comment on their Talk pages and/or edit the entries.
- **Four days after uploading your entry**, send me an accounting of what you have done, including links to relevant Talk pages and pages you have edited so that I can see for myself.

If you have any questions, please get in touch!