

Modern Chinese Philosophy

Spring, 2012

現代中國哲學
2012 年春天

Wikipedia Preparatory Assignment

This assignment should be completed by the end of any of the Essay Cycles in which you are not preparing an essay; it must be completed before the Wikipedia Contribution, though, so the latest you can complete the Preparatory Assignment is the 4th Cycle.

The goals of this assignment are twofold: to familiarize yourself with the basics of Wikipedia's structure and editing functionality, and to begin reflecting on the strengths and weaknesses of existing Wikipedia coverage of our topic. To do this, please follow the following steps:

1. Create a Wikipedia account, at:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:UserLogin/signup>

You can find information on accounts at:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Why_create_an_account%3F

2. Complete the Tutorial at:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Tutorial>

3. Explore Wikipedia's coverage of topics on, or related to, our Reading Schedule, including suggested readings. You may also look into topics suggested by class lecture and discussion, and/or Moodle discussion.

4. Choose 3 Wikipedia entries that fit into the scope just described. Create a subpage named Preparatory Assignment on your User Page, and on that subpage do the following:

- For each of the three entries you have chosen, write one paragraph assessing the scope, accuracy, usefulness, and balance of the entry. What sorts of things could or should be added? Each paragraph should begin with a suitable heading; the use of other Wikipedia formatting (bullet lists, etc.) is encouraged. Be sure to include a link to the entry.
- In each of the paragraphs, include at least one in-text citation (i.e., footnote) and have at least one item in your reference list. You do not have to do substantial research for this assignment: my reason for asking for the reference is to make sure you understand how to create references!
- Finally, write one paragraph that discusses both opportunities and challenges that come from writing in Wikipedia about a complex subject like modern Chinese philosophy. What are the differences you'll need to keep in mind between the "encyclopedia entry" genre and a standard philosophy or intellectual history essay? If you use any sources to generate ideas for this paragraph, please cite them!

When you are done, create a PDF of the subpage (on a Mac this can be done using the Print command, and then save-as-PDF), and email me both the PDF and the link to the relevant subpage. ***This email must be sent by the due date and time of the Cycle within which you complete the assignment.***