

ON THE RHETORIC OF DEFINING CONFUCIANISM AS “A RELIGION”: A
HERMENEUTIC READING OF THE CONTROVERSY ON CONFUCIAN
RELIGIOSITY AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF
CHINESE TRADITION AND MODERNITY

By

Yong Chen

Dissertation

Submitted to the Faculty of the
Graduate School of Vanderbilt University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

in

Religion

August, 2005

Nashville, Tennessee

Approved:

Professor William Franke

Professor Volney Gay

Professor Douglas Knight

Professor Brooke Ackerly

Professor Fernando Segovia

Date:

May 13th, 2005

May 13th, 2005

May 13th, 2005

May 13th, 2005

May 13th, 2005

