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OFFENSIVE OR ABUSIVE TO ANY OTHER STUDENT OR GROUPS OF STUDENTS. THE RULES ABOUT CLASS DISCUSSIONS laid down in the course syllabus should be adhered to. Be creative.

### 3. RESEARCH PAPER (20%)

Each student is required to write an essay on any topic related to religion. This topic should be chosen from any religion other than the student's religion. It is the responsibility of the student to go through the prescribed textbook, and course syllabus in order to identify any topic of interest.

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For example, one may choose to write on Islam, in general, or pick out a specific aspect of that religion; for example, The Koran, The Five Pillars, The position of Women, and so on.

**LENGTH:** 6-10 pages (double-spaced).

**TOPICS:** Topics that are not covered in the course outline need the teacher's approval. If any student is not sure about the appropriateness of his/her topic, the teacher will be happy to assist. All the chosen topics should be registered with the teacher on or before **August 29, 2016**.

**SOURCES:** Students should consult at least 5 sources, of which, at least three should be textbooks.

**DUE DATE:** **November 14, 2016, at 11:59 pm.** Submit completed research paper to Safe Assign on Blackboard.

**ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:** The paper should be written from the phenomenological approach (so, it should be mostly, descriptive); correctness of the information; wide consultation of relevant sources; creativeness; consistent and accurate adherence to Turabian; production of a well-written research paper; and coherence of ideas.

**DOCUMENTATION:** Consistent and accurate adherence to *Turabian: A Manual for Writers* (8<sup>th</sup> edition) is required for all documentation matters (e.g., forms of footnotes, bibliographical entries, etc.).

**NOTE:** Any student who needs assistance, or has difficulties in writing the research paper should let the instructor know as soon as possible, so that assistance can be given. If any student fails to submit the research paper on the stipulated date, without prior arrangements with the instructor, there would be no other opportunity to do that because late papers will not be accepted, and such a student forfeits 20% of his or her final grade.

There is absolute being of multiple manifestations, and the law of cause and effect, following the path of righteousness, and the desire for liberation from the cycle of births and deaths. The Hindus people do worship Brahman in a variety of forms, including the important gods, such as Vishnu, Krishna, Rama, Shiva and several other. There are about eighty million Hindus world wide and in 2001 there were about 559,000 Hindus in the UK.<sup>1</sup> Hinduism has its origins in such remote past that it cannot be traced to any one individual. Some scholars believe that Hinduism must have existed even in circa 10000 B.C. and that the earliest of the Hindu scriptures. The Veda was composed well before 6500 B.C. The word Hinduism is not to be found anywhere in the scriptures, and the term Hindu was introduced by foreigners who referred to people living across the River Indus or Sindhu, in the north of India. There is no one Hinduism, and any unified system of beliefs and ideas. Hinduism is a conglomerate of diverse beliefs and traditions, in which the prominent themes include. Hinduism, the world's oldest religion has no beginning. It has no human founder. It is a mystical religion, leading the devotee to personally experience the truth. The key to understanding the existence of suffering and evil in Hinduism is the central concept of Karma. Karma is at once the simplest of concepts and the most complex. The word itself simply means "action," and originally referred to the sacrificial action that was at the center of the Vedic world. Karma gradually took on the meaning of both action and the effect of action<sup>2</sup>. Hindus believe their position in this present life was determined by their actions in a previous life. Hinduism therefore provides a possible explanation for suffering and

<sup>1</sup> BBC School, Adam, Kana, *World Religion* : 20/Oct/2014

<sup>2</sup> Jacob .N. Kinnard, *Suffering and The problem with Evil* : 11/Nov/2008

### Work cites

- BBC School, Adam, Kana, *World Religion* : 20/Oct/2014
- Jacob .N. Kinnard , *Suffering and The problem with Evil* : 11/Nov/2008
- Philip .A. *Philosophy of Religion* , *Religion of the World* : 11/oct/2001
- ISKCON Educational Services , *The Heart of Hinduism* : 30/Sept/2004
- World Christin Database , *Top ten Countries with Largest Hindu Population* :6/Oct/2012
- Hinduism , BBC School :30/Sept /2012 <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/>>