

COURSE CODE TRS400 (S) 2015

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION PAPER 2015

THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

B.A / B.ED IV / IDE

TITLE OF PAPER: RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD I

COURSE CODE: TRS400

TIME ALLOWED: TWO HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: 1. ANSWER ANY THREE (3) QUESTIONS

2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

TOTAL MARKS : 60

THIS PAPER IS NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL PERMISSION HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
THE INVIGILATOR

1. Religion is “a human interaction with a culturally postulated non-falsifiable reality” (Walter van Beek and Thomas Blakely). Explain this definition with specific reference to the core beliefs of Native American Religion and Hinduism.
2. “Where does religion come from?” (Lewis Hopfe). Write a critique of well-known theories of the origin of religion.
3. Drawing on recent sources and empirical examples from a few religious traditions, discuss the positive and negative effects of religion on people and society.
4. “Absolute truth claims can easily be exploited to incite religious hatred and violence” (Pluralist Summit). Explain and examine this statement with reference to the principles of religious pluralism that are advocated by many religionists and Christian theologians.
5. “Native American Religion is a primal religion, like African Traditional Religion, and it has many things in common with it” (Joseph Omoregbe). Discuss this observation and give relevant examples to illustrate your facts.
6. “There are in classical Hinduism three recognized paths to God: the way of disinterested service of others, the way of devotion and the way knowledge” (Marcus Braybrooke). Explain this statement and provide pertinent examples to illustrate your facts.