

COURSE CODE TRS400 (M) 2016

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND

MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER 2016

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. YOU MUST SPECIFY THE AUTHOR OR AUTHORS OF FACTS, IDEAS AND OPINIONS THAT YOU REFER TO IN YOUR ANSWERS.
3. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS.

TOTAL MARKS : 60

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

1. Explain the importance of studying the world's religions in institutions of higher learning.
2. Giving relevant examples, critically discuss the main principles of religious pluralism that guide many scholars of world religions.
3. "Religion is a two-edged sword which can cut either way with serious consequences. It is a powerful and delicate phenomenon which needs to be handled with utmost caution" (Omoregbe 1999). Discuss this statement with reference to the role of religion in human history.
4. Is there a conclusive theory about the origin of religion? Write a critical essay in response to this query.
5. How does Native American Religion challenge widely held views by many religions about the special place of human beings in the world? Give relevant examples to illustrate your views.
6. According to Huston Smith, Hinduism teaches that "The final human good must lie elsewhere" (1991). Explain what "the final human good" means in Hindu religious thought.