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Final Assessment (30% of final grade)

Select two of the following topics. For each topic you've selected, provide an answer in the form of an essay of not more than 1000 words.

- 1) Discuss the portrayal of women in some of the material we read this term. What seem to be gendered problems or concerns in Indian religions? What are some of the religious options available to women in this material? Did any of the religious traditions we surveyed this term seem more sympathetic to women than others?
- 2) Religious figures, doctrines, or practices belonging to some traditions in India set themselves up in opposition to, or as an alternative for, other religious figures, doctrines, or practices. Using specific examples from our course material, attempt to unravel some of the polemics at play between Indian religions.
- 3) Based on readings from the syllabus, provide your own working definition of karma. Highlight some of the similarities and differences in how karma seems to function in material we studied this term. How might you account for the similarities and differences in how karma seems to operate in Indian religions?
- 4) Many of the stories we read this term might be considered hagiographies ("holy" biographies about the lives of saints). Discuss a number of these stories. What are some common features of these narratives? What are some distinct differences in these stories? What, if anything, can hagiographies tell us about Indian religious traditions?

Note:

You will be graded on: 1) how well you answer the questions posed in the topic; 2) your synthesis of assigned course materials; 3) your comprehension and use of course concepts and themes; 4) how well you demonstrate a successful completion of some of the "Course Outcomes" listed on the syllabus; and 5) the general clarity of your writing.

Due: Sunday, July 7th, 2019



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