

## World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Tanya A. Martin **Humanities Discipline:** Philosophy: Philosophy of Religion, Ethics **Date:** 9/25/2016

**World Religion:** Hinduism **Teaching Module Title:** Are moral codes of different religions more alike than different?

### Teaching Module Goals:

The aim of this teaching module is to understand the concepts of 'dharma' and 'karma'. An additional goal is to compare Hindu ethics to the ethical/moral codes of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam

### Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. [http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/SocialSciences/ppecorino/PHIL\\_of\\_RELIGION\\_TEXT/CHAPTER\\_2\\_RELIGIONS/Hinduism.htm](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/SocialSciences/ppecorino/PHIL_of_RELIGION_TEXT/CHAPTER_2_RELIGIONS/Hinduism.htm)
2. <http://www.hinduism.co.za/ethics.htm>
3. <https://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/essays/dharma-hinduism>
4. Schweiker, William The Blackwell Companion to Religious Ethics c. 2005 by Blackwell Publishing Ltd (PDF)
5. <http://fore.yale.edu/religion/hinduism/>
6. <http://haynes.jpschools.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/119/2013/07/world-religions-comparison-chart-1.pdf>
7. *Bhagavad Gita* (select readings TBA)

### Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What is Samsara and how does this concept compare to Plato's contention that human beings do not gain knowledge through experience, rather they merely "recall"? How does Plato's view compare to the Hindu concept of 'atman'?
2. Define 'Karma' and compare to the Christian view of 'sin'. Are these concepts comparable or are they entirely different? Also compare to Islam's concept of Jihad.
3. Define Moksha and compare to Christianity's Heaven/Hell dichotomy.
4. Compare and contrast Christian Just War Theory, Islamic Just War Tradition, and the Hindu equivalent in The Bhagavad Gita.

### Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

In an Ethics class blog about religious pluralism and global ethics students will respond to the study questions above. At this point students will have learned about Plato's views about the soul and knowledge. Students will also have acquired understanding of the moral codes of Judaism, Christianity and Islam prior to this blog assignment.