

**CENTRE FOR DISTANCE AND ONLINE EDUCATION
SRI SRI UNIVERSITY, CUTTACK**

MASTER OF ARTS (HINDU STUDIES)

TUTOR MARKED ASSIGNMENT

Course Code: MHS 202

Academic Year: 2025-26

Course Name: Dharma Karma Vimarsha

Session: February 2025

Semester: 2nd

Total Marks: 100

A. Answer any eight questions (essay type). Answer in about 350-500 words each.

(10 X 8 = 80)

1. **Compare the understanding of dharma in Vaiṣṇava, Śaiva, Baudhā and Sikh traditions.** Explain how each tradition defines the ultimate goal of life and how dharma is shaped by devotion (bhakti), knowledge, compassion, or service in that tradition.
2. Discuss **Śruti, Smṛti and Kalpa** as the primary sources of dharma. How does each contribute to the formation of moral and legal norms in the Hindu tradition?
3. Describe the ideas of **svabhāva-dharma, pravṛtti-dharma and nivṛtti-dharma**. How can a person balance pravṛtti (engagement in the world) and nivṛtti (withdrawal) in contemporary life?
4. Analyse the distinction between **abhyudaya** and **niśreyasa**. How are worldly welfare and ultimate liberation related to each other in the Hindu understanding of dharma and karma?
5. Explain the concepts of **ācāra, vyavahāra and prāyaścitta** in the Dharmaśāstra tradition. How do these three help in maintaining order and also providing a path for correction when dharma is violated?
6. Define and explain **akarma** and **vikarma** with reference to the doctrine of karma. How does understanding these categories help to clarify what is truly the right action?
7. Discuss **niṣkāma-karma** in detail. How is it connected with the idea that **Brahman or Sarvam is the real doer**, with the inescapability of karma-phala, and with the limitation of our **adhikāra** over consequence?
8. Compare the principles of dharma in **Vaidika, Jaina, Baudhā and Sikh** traditions. Identify important common values as well as major differences in emphasis.

9. Discuss the concept of **Rājadharma** in the Hindu tradition. Explain its theological basis in dharma and ḍita, describe the essential duties and qualities of an ideal ruler towards his subjects (such as protection, justice, welfare and maintenance of order), and comment on the relevance of **Rājadharma** for modern forms of political leadership.
10. Discuss the evolving nature of **dharma** from ancient to modern times. How does dharma remain rooted in eternal principles yet adapt to changing social contexts?

B. Write short notes on any four. Answer in about 150-200 words each.

(5 X 4 = 20)

1. **Rājadharma** – duties and qualities of an ideal ruler
2. Types of karma: **kāmya, nitya, naimittika, niṣiddha, prāyaścitta and upāsanā**
3. Varṇa-dharma and Āśrama-dharma
4. The idea of **adhikāra** over action and lack of absolute control over karma-phala
5. The evolving nature of dharma in modern social and global contexts
6. **Pravṛtti-dharma and Nivṛtti-dharma** – two complementary paths