PHIL 410/810: POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR ESSAY 1

DUE DATE: OCTOBER 16, 2019

(1) The Vedānta philosophy, according to Vivekananda, includes science, art, music, literature and all human creative endeavour. What is the meaning of Vedānta and is this universal view of Vedānta justified by Vivekananda's treatment of the subject?

(2) The four yogas of Vivekananda can be a separate topic for further study. The easiest to study are his books on karma yoga and raja yoga, two topics treated in Volume 1 of his complete works. Summarize the essential components of any one of these yogas in a coherent and synoptic essay.

(3) What role did nationalism play in the shaping of Indian philosophy. Write a short essay discussing this theme using as a resource Chapter 1 titled "Pandits and Professors: The renaissance of secular India" in the Bhushan-Garfield anthology, as a focal point for your discussion.

(4) In each of the essays on Jnana yoga by Vivekananda, there occur several stories. What role do these stories play in Vivekananda's lectures and how effective are they in impressing upon the listener the essential features of the Vedānta philosophy.

(5) In his essay, "The Absolute and Manifestation", Vivekananda indicates an error in Schopenhauer's understanding of the Vedānta philosophy. What is this error and how does Vivekananda elaborate on the correct viewpoint?

(6) Bhakti yoga is the yoga of devotion. How does art and aesthetics fit into this yoga? Discuss this from the standpoint Aurobindo's essay "The Future Poetry" found in the Bhushan-Garfield anthology.

(7) Tagore's essay, "The Pathway to Mukti" discusses the theme of joining poetry and philosophy. How does Tagore make his point and what does he use by way of examples to support his thesis?

(8) What is the meaning of *tyaga* or detachment? What role does this play in Vivekananda's analysis of Maya. How does this idea relate to jnana yoga and karma yoga?

(9) What is Aurobindo's integral yoga? In what way does it differ from the four yogas of Vivekananda?