

**First Paper Topic  
Philosophy 11  
Spring, 2015**

Length should be approximately 5 pages. Please use a line spacing of 3 lines per inch and a left margin of 1½ inches, 1 inch elsewhere. Point size may be no less than 10. Please be sure the printing is clear and that the paper stock is of a type that does not make it difficult to produce handwritten comments. Papers will be evaluated on the basis of both content and quality of writing. You **must** cite the text for every claim that you make about the content of the views you present.

**Due: Monday, May 4, in class**

In his commentary on the *Vedānta Sūtra*, Śaṅkara comments on sūtra II.i.14, “The non-difference of them (i.e., of cause and effect) results from such terms as ‘origin’ and the like.” Explain the main issue in dispute, that *Brahman* is supposed to be the cause of the world and yet not different from it. Then show how Śaṅkara defended this claim. Next, consider what you think are the main objections to the claim and how Śaṅkara defended himself against these objections.