SYLLABUS

Gandhi and Non-violence
History 405
Rhodes College
Spring Semester 2010

Professor Lynn Zastoupil
Office: Buckman 206
Office Hours: T, Th 12:30-1:50 (and by appointment)
Telephone: 3654

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will introduce students to the life and thought of Mohandas Gandhi. Since Gandhi’s life intersects many of the main currents of modern South Asian history, this course will introduce students to a good bit of the latter as well. This will be accomplished through a combination of lectures, discussion of assigned readings, and student presentations. In addition, students will be exposed to the process of interpreting historical documents and constructing a historical narrative of events. It is also expected that students will arrive at a solid understanding of the historical events surrounding the life of Gandhi, a major figure in twentieth century world history.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course is a seminar. Students will be expected to complete all readings on time and to be fully prepared to participate in class discussions based on those readings. Those who find it difficult to participate actively in class discussions may submit summaries of the assigned readings, which, if thoroughly done, will help raise class participation grades. Each student will do one oral presentation, which will require additional reading beyond that assigned for the day. Presentation topics and readings will be chosen in consultation with the professor. There will be one short essay, due at midterm, which will be analytical; the topic(s) for this will be assigned. The major assignment for the course is a research essay (4000-6000 words), due at the end of the semester. Students must get their research topics approved by the professor. All assignments must be handed in by 5:00 p.m. on the date specified; all late papers will be automatically reduced by one letter grade. **There are no exceptions to this penalty.** Final grades will be determined as follows: class participation - 30%; analytical essay - 15%; presentation - 15%; research essay - 40%. All work will be evaluated on the basis of a combination of factors, including style, content, coherence, mastery of the subject and number and nature of sources consulted.

BOOKS TO PURCHASE

David Arnold, Gandhi
David Hardiman, Gandhi in His Time and Ours
Mohandas Gandhi, An Autobiography
M. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, ed. A. Parel
Lloyd Rudolph and Susanne Rudolph, Gandhi: The Traditional Roots of Charisma
Aravind Adiga, The White Tiger
COURSE OUTLINE

Week I (Jan. 14): Introduction and Presentation Assignments
Assignment: Begin viewing Gandhi movie

Week II (Jan. 21): Images of Gandhi
Assignment: Finish viewing Gandhi movie; readings: Arnold, Chap. 1; V. Mehta, Mahatma Gandhi and His Disciples, pp. 3-21 (Moodle); Gopal, ed. Nehru, pp. 112-18 (Moodle)

Week III Jan. 28): British Raj, Cultural Imperialism, and Gandhi’s Youth

Week IV (Feb. 4): Gandhi’s Early Life
Assignment: Gandhi, Autobiography, pp. 42-83, 87-99; Arnold, pp. 34-41; Rudolphs, Gandhi, “Fear of Cowardice”

Week V (Feb. 11): Gandhi’s Transformation

Hind Swaraj: Modern Civilization: Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, pp. 5-11, 30-41, 47-50, 59-65, 100-11; Hardiman, pp. 66-72


Week VI (Feb. 18): Indian Nationalism
Assignment: S. Hay, Sources of Indian Tradition, vol. II, pp. 84-96, 113-20, 128-48 (Moodle); Hardiman, pp. 12-21

Week VII (Feb. 25): Gandhi’s Rise to Power and Non-Cooperation
Assignment: Arnold, pp. 73-115; Gandhi, Autobiography, pp. 404-428

Non-cooperation: Arnold, pp. 115-26
Non-Cooperation and Khadi: Arnold, pp. 126-34; Hardiman, pp. 72-81; Gandhi, Autobiography, pp. 489-505

Week VIII (March 4): Interpreting Non-Cooperation/Satyagraha
Assignment: Gandhi, Autobiography, pp. 204-214 [re-read]; Rudolphs, Gandhi “Self Control and Political Potency” and remainder of book; Hardiman, pp. 39-63

FIRST ESSAY DUE AT 5:00 ON MARCH 4

Week IX (March 11): Islamic Revival, Communalism and Gandhi
Assignment: Hay, Sources, pp. 173-77, 180-83, 195-204 (Moodle); Hardiman, pp. 156-77

SPRING BREAK MARCH 15-19

Week X (March 25): Civil Disobedience
Assignment: Arnold, pp. 136-51; Gandhi, Non-Violent Resistance, pp. 226-28, 233-42 (Moodle)
Week XI (April 1): Untouchability
Gandhi and Untouchability: Arnold, pp. 169-81; Hardiman, pp. 123-36; Gandhi, Non-Violent Resistance, pp. 177-203 (Moodle)

Week XII (April 8): World War Two
Assignment: Muslim Separatism: Hay, Sources, 205-42 (Moodle)
Gandhi’s Family and Views on Women: Hardiman, Chap. 5

Week XIII (April 15): Quit India and Independence
Assignment: Quit India: Arnold, pp. 207-15; Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, pp. 181-88; Mukherjee, Penguin Gandhi Reader, pp. 163-76 (Moodle)
India’s Revolution: F. Hutchins, India’s Revolution, Chaps. 8-9 (Moodle)
Gandhi’s Finest Hour: Hardiman, pp. 184-91; Arnold, pp. 220-27

Week XIV (April 22): Gandhi’s Legacy
Assignment: Nehru’s Vision: Gandhi, Hind Swaraj, pp. 149-56; J. Nehru, Toward Freedom, pp. 318-26 (Moodle)
Ambedkar’s Vision: B. R. Ambedkar, What Congress and Gandhi Have Done to the Untouchables, Chap. 11 (Moodle)

RESEARCH ESSAY DUE AT 5:00 APRIL 26

Week XV (April 29): Gandhi’s Legacy Reconsidered
Assignment: Adiga, White Tiger (all)