Gandhi and Gandhism

HIS 350L (39375)/ANS 361 (31735)/RS 341 (43685)  Gail Minault
MW 3:30-5
GAR 1.134

Textbooks
Judith Brown, *Gandhi: Prisoner of Hope*
Joan Bondurant, *The Conquest of Violence*

This course will begin with a biographical account of Gandhi's life and work, and proceeds from there to various interpretations of the man, his life, his philosophy, and his influence. We will look at his role in the Indian nationalist movement, his influence on the course of race relations in South Africa, and his impact on the thought of such leaders as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela. We will also look at such topics as his philosophy and techniques of non-violent protest, his views on women, and his economic and social impact on independent India.

Requirements for the course include the weekly readings, which will be discussed in class. Everyone has a different view of Gandhi, as you will see from the readings, and I am sure this class will be no exception. If the readings are not done in time for class, the discussion will fall flat, so please do the readings and be prepared to discuss them. In addition to the required textbooks (above) there will be extra readings, available on Blackboard (BB). Students will take turns leading the discussion of the readings each week (see paper assignments for details). A report of 2-3 pp. on the reading and discussion will be due one week later (no later – except for one exception at the time of the mid-term papers). There will be a mid-term paper of 7-8 pp. - a book report on Gandhi's *Autobiography* compared to Brown's biography, which will be due on March 9. The final paper for the course will be a research paper of about 10-15 pp. and will be due on May 4. Further details and tips on discussions and paper assignments are on a separate sheet. **Attendance and grading policies**: Attendance will be taken and more that 3 absences will impact your grade. Grading will be on the basis of the system of pluses and minuses. Percentages for the grade: class participation, 20%; discussion reports, 15% (if you volunteer to lead a discussion, you must show up!); mid-term paper, 25%; final paper, 40%. We will also have a class party at my home at the end of the semester, details to be arranged.

I enjoy meeting my students personally and urge you to come by my office at least once during the semester. In any case, you will need to discuss your research projects with me. My office is GAR 3.118, office hours: MW 1:30-3:00, F 1:30-3 by appointment, or at other times by appointment. Phone: 475-7214, or email: gminault@mail.utexas.edu. Please do not call me at home.
Reading Assignments

Jan. 18 - Introduction to the Course
   Discussion of syllabus, requirements, etc.
   Read: George Orwell, "Reflections on Gandhi" (BB)

I. Gandhi's Life

Jan. 23 - Early Life and Formative Influences
   Read: Judith Brown, Gandhi: Prisoner of Hope, pp. 1-43.
   Gandhi, Essential Writings, pp. ix-xxxiii.
   Start reading Gandhi's Autobiography. It is long and deals with his life only down to 1921. It is difficult to slice into weekly assignments, but since it is the subject of the mid-term paper, it is wise to start it early.

Jan. 25 - Early Life (cont.)

Jan. 30-Feb. 1 - Gandhi in South Africa
   Read (Mon.): Brown, Prisoner of Hope, pp. 43-94.
   Continue reading the autobiography.
   Read (Wed.): Essential Writings, pp. 1-38,

Feb. 6-8 - Return to India
   Film: Biography: "Mahatma Gandhi"
   Read (Mon.): Brown, POH, pp. 95-136.
   Continue reading the autobiography.
   Read (Wed.): Essential Writings, pp. 39-65.

Feb. 13-15- Non-Cooperation
   Read (Mon): Brown, POH, pp. 139-213.
   Essential Writings, pp. 67-105.
   Continue reading the autobiography.
   Read (Wed.): Shahid Amin, "Gandhi as Mahatma," from T. Metcalf, Modern India (2nd edn.), pp. 342-371 (BB). (cont. next p.)
   Essential Writings, pp. 258-281.
   Susan Bean, "Gandhi and Khadi, the Fabric of Indian Independence,"
from Weiner and Schneider, *Cloth and Human Experience*, pp. 355-76 (BB).

Feb. 20-22 - Civil Disobedience
Read (Mon.): Brown, POH, pp. 214-260.
Finish the autobiography if you haven't already.
Read (Wed.): Essential writings, pp. 105-161.

Feb. 27-29 - Constructive Work
Read (Mon.): Brown, POH, pp. 261-77, 281-313.
*Essential Writings*, pp. 161-228.
Read (Wed.): B.R. Nanda, "Gandhi and the Caste System," from *Gandhi and His Critics*, pp. 18-26 (BB).

Mar. 5-7 – War, Quit India
Read (Mon.): Brown, POH, pp. 314-58.
Read (Wed.): *Essential Writings*, pp. 281-307.

**N.B. Mid-term Papers Due Friday, March 9, by 5 PM** (see separate sheet)

**Spring Break**

Mar. 19-21 - Independence, Assassination
Read (Mon.): Brown, POH, pp. 359-94.
**Reminder:** Research paper topics due by March 28.
Read (Wed.): Nanda, "Gandhi and the Partition of India," from *Gandhi and His Critics*, pp. 77-97 (BB).
Ashish Nandy, "Final Encounter: The Politics of the Assassination of Gandhi," from his *At the Edge of Psychology*, pp. 70-98 (BB).

**II. Gandhism: Thought and Action**

Mar 26-28 - What is Satyagraha?
NB: Research topics due 3/28

Read (Wed.): *Essential Writings*, pp. 309-41.
Nanda, "Religion and Politics," from *Gandhi and His Critics*, pp. 72-76 (BB).

Apr. 2-4 - Gandhian Thought, Disciples and Critics
   NB: Preliminary bibliographies for research papers due 4/4
   Read (Mon.): Bondurant, chs. 3-4.
   Read (Wed.): *Essential Writings*, pp. 341-73.

Apr. 9-11 – Gandhian Thought (cont.) and Marxist Critics
   Read (Mon.): Bondurant, chs. 5-6.

Apr. 16-18 - Gandhi and Women
   Read (Mon.): *Essential Writings*, pp. 228-258.

Apr. 23-25 - Is Gandhism Exportable?
   Film Mon: “Eyes on the Prize,” Part IV; disc. of film and readings Wed.
   Reading for this week: Martin Luther King, Jr., *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*, pp. 72-88 (BB).

Apr. 30-May 2 - No class Monday – work on your papers
   *** Class dinner party Wed. – arrangements TBA
   **Final Papers due Friday, May 4, by 5 PM.**