

Course Name: Politics of Resistance: the Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description in SIS/Introduction to the Class

Political resistance has exploded over the past few years, spreading from Ben Arous and Tahrir Square to Jantar Mantar, Zuccotti Park, Puerta de Sol, Euromaidan, Ferguson, and most recently to our very own Rotunda. This course will take us back to where it all started, and explore the ideas of the man who, more than any other, was responsible for inventing Civil Disobedience. This will not, primarily, be a class on Gandhi's life. Instead, we will examine the original writings of both Gandhi and some of his major contemporaries to better understand what civil disobedience is, what it is not, in what historical contexts it has been effective, and how it is still relevant today.

Required Texts: All readings are available for free online. They can be accessed via the links provided in the course schedule. Students who prefer a paper copy can also find some of them in the library.

Course Expectations:

- The Code of Honor of the University of Virginia reads as follows: “*On my honor, I pledge that I will not lie, cheat, or steal.*” Students are expected to adhere to this code at all times, both inside and outside of class. It is especially important considering the nature of our subject matter, and students are encouraged to relate material from the class to their day-to-day experience as a member of our Community of Trust.
- An important part of the Community of Trust is looking out for each other. Students are encouraged to be aware of what their friends, neighbors, and peers are feeling, and reach out to anyone who may be facing challenges.
- Equally important, students who are themselves facing difficulties in their personal, professional, or academic lives should contact CAPS at 434-243-5150. The fantastic people at CAPS are great listeners and can give very good advice. No one should hesitate to give them a call!
- Please avoid scheduling job interviews, extracurricular activities, or other commitments in ways that conflict with the scheduled class time. The class is small to begin with, and so the absence of one student will seriously detract from the experience of everyone else in the class. If an absence is unavoidable due to sickness or bereavement, however, that is completely understandable, and in that case please try to inform the instructor by email before class, if possible.
- Students with a documented disability should see the instructor during the first week of classes. Accommodations will be provided to ensure that every student can participate fully in the class.

Grading Policy:

- 15%: Essay on Lage Raho Munna Bhai, due Feb 15
- 15%: Essay on a reading of your choice, due March 27th.
- 35%: Final Paper
 - There will be an in-class brain-storming session on April 9th
 - Paper Outline due April 14th
 - Final Paper due May 6th
- 25%: In-Class Participation (attendance, punctuality, and quality of discussion)
- 10%: Every student must personally attend or initiate either a protest or some other (legal) act of civil disobedience. Ideally, students should do this by March 5th.

Further Reading:

Students interested in exploring specific topics in greater depth should explore the following resources, most of which are available from the UVA library. They will also be excellent references as you write your final papers!

- Thoughts of Gandhi and Vinoba (K.S. Bharathi)
- The Argumentative Indian (Amartya Sen)
- Gandhi Before India (Ramachandra Guha)
- World Crisis and the Gandhian Way (Anil Dutta Mishra and S. Narayanasamy)
- Rediscovering Gandhi [Series] (R.P. Misra)
 - Vol I - Hind Swaraj: Gandhi's Challenge to Modern Civilization (RP Misra)
 - Vol II - Ahimsa: the Way to Peace (Jonathan Crane & Jordi Agusti-Panareda)
 - Vol III - Satyagraha: Gandhian Approach to Conflict Resolution (Jai Narain Sharma)
 - Vol IV - Consensual Democracy: Gandhi on State, Power, and Politics (Ashu Pasricha)
 - Vol V - Humanizing Science and Technology (Vinnie Jauhari & Parul Goyal)
 - Vol VI - Truth is God: Gandhi's Search for the Religion of Religions (RP Misra)
- A Comprehensive, Annotated Bibliography on Mahatma Gandhi: Biographies, Works by Gandhi, and Bibliographical Sources (Ananda M. Pandiri)
- Conquest of Violence: The Gandhian Philosophy of Conflict (Joan Valerie Bondurant)
- Gandhian Management (Ram Pratap)

Course Schedule:

D	Topic	Reading	Speaker/In-Class Media
	INTRODUCTION		
1/13	What is Political Resistance?	Welcome to Class!	
	PHILOSOPHICAL ROOTS		
1/15	Jain and Hindu Influences	Chapter 5 of Bhagavad Gita (Krishna) Anashakti Yoga (Gandhi)	
1/20	Christian Influences	Kingdom of God is Within You (Tolstoy) <i>Preface and Chapter 1</i>	
1/22	The British Raj	Poverty & Un-British Rule in India (Naoroji) <i>Introduction, p. v-xiv</i>	Video of speech by Dr. Shashi Tharoor
1/27	Gandhi's Forbears	Bartaman Bharat (Vivekananda) <i>Entire essay, approx. 18 pages</i>	
1/29	Gandhi's Life Before 1906	Experiments with Truth (Gandhi) <i>Introduction, Stealing and Atonement, On The Way to Pretoria</i>	Clips from the movie <i>Gandhi</i>
	GANDHIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT		
2/3	Preparing for Satyagraha (1906-1920)	Experiments with Truth (Gandhi) <i>The Boer War, champaran, kheda, khalifat, harijan, ashramas</i>	
2/5	Satyagrahas of Gandhi (1920-1946)	Experiments with Truth (Gandhi) <i>non-cooperation, dandi march, quit india</i>	

D	Topic	Reading	Speaker/In-Class Media
2/19	Satyagraha vs. Violent Revolution	Doctrine of the Sword (Gandhi) The Indian Struggle (Bose)	
2/24	Anarchy vs. Satyagraha vs. Public Order	Article on FBI surveillance of Dr. MLK	Law Professors Alex Johnson, Tomiko Brown-Nagin, Kim Forde-Mazrui, Risa Goluboff
2/26	Gandhi, Religion, and Partition	Hindutva—Who is a Hindu? (VD Savarkar)	Short Video about Partition
3/3	Is Perpetual Peace Possible?	Democratic Peace (Kant) Economic Interdependence (Keohane)	Professor Peter Furia
3/5	Economics as a Political Tool	Experiments with Truth (Gandhi)	
3/17	Gandhi vs. Marx	Communist Manifesto (Marx)	Modern Satyagraha
3/19	Gandhi and Nationalism	Hind Swaraj (Gandhi)	
3/24	Dr. Martin Luther King	Letter from a Birmingham Jail I Have a Dream speech	Clips from the movie Selma
3/26	Nelson Mandela	I Am Prepared to Die speech	
OTHER TOPICS			
3/31	Gandhian Economics	Unto the Last (Ruskin) Sarvodaya (Gandhi)	Professor Echeverri-Gent
4/2	Gandhi on Social Inequality	What Congress and Gandhi Have Done to the Untouchables (Ambedkar)	
4/7	Gandhi and Feminism	Hind Swaraj (Gandhi)	Professor Neeti Nair
4/9	Gandhian Morality	Seven Sins (Gandhi)	
4/14	Lecturer: What is Peace? Brainstorm Paper Proposals	<i>none</i>	
STUDENT-SELECTED TOPICS			
4/16	Student-selected Topics	<i>none</i>	
4/21	Student-selected Topics	<i>none</i>	
4/23	Student-selected Topics	<i>none</i>	
4/28	Student-selected Topics	<i>none</i>	

Possible Ideas for Student-selected Topics: Israel-Palestine; Terrorism; Post-Revolutionary State-Building and Constitution-Writing in India, South Africa, Tunisia, Egypt, etc; Satire and Free Press; Combating Genocide and Recovering in the Aftermath; UVA Community of Trust; Occupy;