

HIST/GLAS 200 (CRN: 40460/40461)

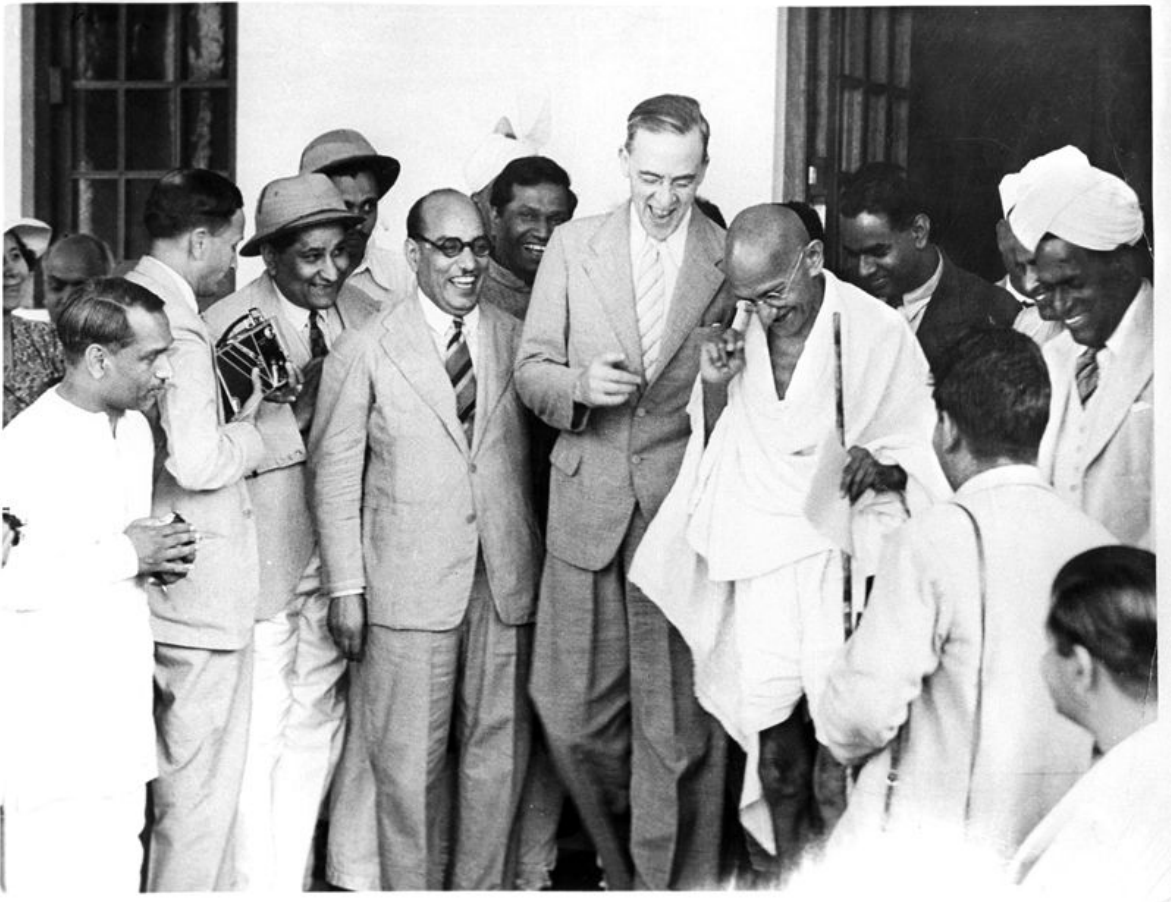
Gandhi: The History and Politics of Nonviolence

Spring 2018

MWF 11-11:50am

2433 ETMSW (Education, Theater, Music and Social Work building)

Professor Rama Mantena



Gandhi authored one of the most enduring political philosophies of our time, the doctrine of nonviolence, which was not only central to the mass mobilization of the Indian nationalist movement in the first half of the twentieth century, but also fueled other social and political movements throughout the century, most notably Martin Luther King, Jr.'s use and interpretation of Gandhian thought in the Civil Rights movement in the United States. This class will explore the politics and strategy of nonviolent resistance as formulated by M.K. Gandhi in the context of British imperial rule and the appropriation and refining of the method by civil rights activists and leaders in the US from Howard Thurman to Martin Luther King Jr. We will consider how the theory and practice of nonviolence evolved and changed as it moved from one context to another. The main objective of this course is to become familiar with the basic tenets of Gandhi's

thought and the diverse legacies of his ideas. To that end, we will spend much of the semester closely reading Gandhi's writings and the writings and speeches of Martin Luther King Jr.

Required Books

1. M.K. Gandhi, *Non-Violent Resistance (Satyagraha)*. Dover, 2001.
2. *Hind Swaraj*. Ed. Anthony J. Parel (Cambridge University Press, 1998).
3. Martin Luther King Jr., *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches*, ed. James Washington (Harper).

Coursework: The reading assignments are listed weekly. You are required to read the assignments before attending class so you can ask questions and be prepared to discuss.

10% Attendance

10% Participation and in-class writing assignments

20% Student Presentations

30% Midterm Exam (short essays)

30% Final Research paper

Blackboard: You are required to consult Blackboard on a weekly basis for announcements for the course, updates on the course syllabus, required reading material for the course (under Course Readings).

Course Obligations: Attendance is mandatory. Please arrive on time to class; tardiness will not be tolerated. If you miss more than 3 classes, you may be asked to drop the course. If you know you will be absent on any given day (this includes the first 2 weeks of the semester), you must inform me beforehand. In order for an absence to count as an excused one, you must provide a legitimate verifiable excuse.

Laptops, phones and iPads: All devices are to be put away during class time. This means no texting, checking Facebook or other social media in class. If may use your laptop for note taking and referring to readings on Blackboard.

Disability Services: Concerning disabled students, the University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that individuals with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at UIC. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for full access and participation in UIC

Programs must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Please contact DRC at (312) 413-2183 (voice) or (312) 413- 0123 (TDD).

Weekly Schedule:

Jan 15-19, 2018

Week 1: Gandhi and Nonviolent protest

M: MLK Day

W: Introduction to Gandhi and Nonviolence

Introductions and strategies for learning (note-taking and reading)

In-class film: *A force more powerful: a century of nonviolent conflict*. (2000)

F: "Introduction" to Raghavan Iyer, ed., *The Moral and Political Writings of Mahatma Gandhi*, Vol. 1, pp. 1-12. (BB)

Jonathan Schell, *The Unconquerable World*, 1-10, 13-27. (BB)

Jan 22-26, 2018

Week 2: Pacifism, Passive Resistance, and Civil Disobedience

M: Jonathan Schell, *The Unconquerable World*, 63-68, 84-99, 103-142. (BB)

W: Selections from *The Power of Nonviolence: Writings by advocates of peace*: Zinn, Emerson and Jane Addams. Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience" and "Resistance to Civil Government." (BB)

F: Leo Tolstoy, *The Kingdom of God is Within You*: Ch VIII and Tolstoy, "Letter to a Hindoo." (BB)

Raghavan Iyer, ed., *The Moral and Political Writings of Mahatma Gandhi*, Vol. 1, pp. 107-123. (BB)

Sharp "The Nature and Control of Political Power." (BB)

Jan 29-Feb 2, 2018

Week 3: Gandhi's political awakening, South Africa

M: Gandhi's *Autobiography*. Read pp. 87-121. (BB)

W: Gandhi's *Autobiography*. Read pp. 122-182. (BB)

F: Research topics for presentations.

Gandhi and Political Struggles in Africa: Nelson Mandela on Gandhi,
http://www.tolstoyfarm.com/mandela_on_gandhi.htm

Feb 5-9, 2018

Week 4: Satyagraha: the power of nonviolence

M: "What is Satyagraha?" *Non-violent Resistance*, pp. 3-37.

W: "Discipline for Satyagraha," *Non-violent Resistance*, pp 37-68

F: "Qualifications for Satyagraha," *Non-violent Resistance*, pp 77-96.

Feb 12-16, 2018

Week 5: The critique of modern civilization

M: The west: a corrupting center

Raghavan Iyer, *The Moral and Political Writings of Mahatma Gandhi, Volume 1*, Oxford, 1986, "Civilization," pp. 288-369. (BB)

W: Ashis Nandy, "From Outside the Imperium: Gandhi's Cultural Critique of the West," *Traditions, Tyranny, and Utopias: Essays in the Politics of Awareness*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1987. (BB)

F: Student Presentations

Feb 19-23, 2018

Week 6: The Other West

M: John Ruskin, Clive Wilmer (Editor), *Unto This Last: And Other Writings* (Penguin Classics). (BB)

W: Raghavan Iyer, "Sarvodaya—Non-Violent Social Transformation," *The Moral and Political Writings of Mahatma Gandhi, Volume 3*, Oxford, 1986, pp. 410-433. (BB)

F: Student Presentations

Feb 26-March 2, 2018

Week 7: Hind Swaraj

M: Introduction, *Hind Swaraj*, pp. Xiii-Ixii

W: *Hind Swaraj*, pp. 5-125

F: Student Presentations

March 5-9, 2018

Week 8: Indian Nationalism and the Salt March

M: Yasmine Khan “Gandhi’s World.” (BB)

W: *Non-violent Resistance*, “Salt Satyagraha,” pp. 220-290.

F: Student Presentations

March 12-16, 2018

Week 9: Gandhi’s Indian legacies

M: Midterm Exam (on Blackboard)

W: Nehru, the Non-alignment Movement, and JP Narayan’s World Peace Brigades

F: Student Presentations

March 19-23, 2018

Week 10: Sources of African American Nonviolence

M: Sudarshan Kapur, *Raising Up a Prophet: The African American Encounter with Gandhi*, Ch 4. (BB)

W: Howard Thurman, “Relaxation and Race Conflict” & “Peace Tactics and a Racial Minority.” (BB)

F: No class

MARCH 26-30, 2018 SPRING BREAK

April 2-5, 2018

Week 11: Sources of African American Nonviolence

M: Bayard Rustin, “Nonviolence vs Jim Crow,” “The Negro and Nonviolence,” “Letter for the Draft Board,” “We Challenged Jim Crow,” “Civil Disobedience, Jim Crow, and the Armed Forces” from *Time on Two Crosses: The Collected Writings of Bayard Rustin*. (BB)

King and the Civil Rights Movement

W: King, “Stride Towards Freedom” (pp. 417-490) from *A Testament of Hope*.

F: No class

April 9-13, 2018

Week 12: King and the Civil Rights Movement

M: Peter Ackerman and John Duvall, "The American South" in *A Force More Powerful: A Century of Non-Violent Conflict*, 306-333. (BB)

W: Howard Zinn, "The Freedom Rides," in *SNCC: The New Abolitionists*, 40-61
SNCC Statement of Purpose (1960) & Ella Baker, "Bigger than a Hamburger" (1960).
(BB)

F: Student Presentations

April 16-20, 2018

Week 13: King's Political Philosophy

M: Morris, "Birmingham: A Planned Exercise in Mass Disruption" and King, "Why We Can't Wait": 526-554. (BB)

Recommended: King, "Letter from Birmingham City Jail," "Behind the Selma March"

W: King: "Nonviolence and Racial Justice," "My Trip to the Land of Gandhi," "The Social Organization of Nonviolence," "Pilgrimage to Nonviolence," "Love, Law, and Civil Disobedience," "An Address before the National Press Club," "The Ethical Demands for Integration," "Letter from Birmingham City Jail," and "I Have a Dream" from *A Testament of Hope*.

F: Student Presentations

April 23-27, 2018

Week 14: King's Political Philosophy

M: King, "Nonviolence: The Only Road to Freedom," "Showdown for Nonviolence," "Next Stop: The North," "A Time to Break Silence," "I See the Promised Land," from *A Testament of Hope*.

King, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?*: 566-597

Nonviolence after MLK

W: Stokely Carmichael, "Power and Racism" and "Toward Black Liberation" from *Stokely Speaks: From Black Power to Pan-Africanism*. (BB)

F: Student Presentations

April 30-May 4, 2018

Weeks 15: Occupy Wall Street to Black Lives Matter

M: Student Presentations

W: Student Presentations

F: Conclusion

May 9, 2018: Final research paper due