

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF THE HUMANITIES  
RELI 4852C (Winter 2012)  
Mahatma Gandhi in India and the World**

**Mondays 2:35-5:25  
Paterson Hall 114**

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Office Hours: Thursdays 2:00 - 4:00  
(Or by appointment)**

This seminar is a critical examination of the life and thought of one of the pivotal and iconic figures of the twentieth century, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi – better known as the Mahatma, the great soul. Gandhi is a bridge figure across cultures in that his thought and action were inspired by both Indian and Western traditions. And, of course, in that his influence has spread across the globe. He was shaped by his upbringing in Gujarat India and the influences of Hindu and Jain piety. He identified as a *Sanatani* Hindu. Yet he was also influenced by Western thought: the New Testament, Henry David Thoreau, John Ruskin, Count Leo Tolstoy. We will read these authors: Thoreau, *On Civil Disobedience*; Ruskin, *Unto This Last*; Tolstoy, *A Letter to a Hindu* and *The Kingdom of God is Within You*. We will read Gandhi's autobiography, *My Experiments with Truth*, and a variety of texts from his *Collected Works* covering the social, political, and religious dimensions of his struggle for a free India and an India of social justice. We will read selections from his commentary on the Bhagavad Gita, the book that was his daily inspiration and that also, ironically, was the inspiration of his assassin.

We will encounter Gandhi's clash over communal politics and caste with another architect of modern India – Bhimrao Ambedkar, author of the constitution, Buddhist convert, and leader of the "untouchable" community. The seminar also considers Gandhi's influence on figures from Martin Luther King Jr to Nelson Mandela, or the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, and a host of activists and voices of dissent. Gandhi's impact (or appropriation) is felt in movements *against*: war, nuclear proliferation, and (more recently) globalization. And in diverse movements *for*: peace, environment, animal rights, and inter-religious dialogue.

The seminar allows students to encounter themes from the Indian tradition embodied in the life of a modern figure who belongs to India, and also to the world.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

[These titles are available at Octopus Books, 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue at Bank.]

M. K. Gandhi, *An Autobiography or The Story of My Experiments with Truth*. Foreword by Sissela Bok. Boston: Beacon Press, 1993  
978-0-8070-5909-8

M. K. Gandhi, *'Hind Swaraj' and Other Writings*. Centenary Edition. ed. Anthony J. Parel. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009  
978-0-521-14602-9

Mahatma Gandhi, *The Essential Writings*. New Edition. ed. Judith M. Brown. Oxford World's Classics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008  
978-0-19-280720

*The Bhagavad Gita According to Gandhi*, ed. John Stohmeier. Berkeley, CA: North Atlantic Books, 2009.  
978-I-55643-800-4

## **REQUIREMENTS**

### **Reading Responses 15%**

A one to two page (double-spaced) response to the readings for each week. Seven of these are required. If they come in at the start of the weekly meeting, they are graded out of 2. If they come in later than the Monday class, they are graded out of 1. The best of the seven will receive a bonus mark. These responses are aimed at promoting informed engagement at the weekly meeting which is the *sine qua non* of success in this course. Every response should have a paragraph on each of the readings for the day. It should also pose one question you may want us to consider generate from the reading. From week 3 onward, I also would like to see a brief paragraph about what you are reading as research for your final paper.

**Note: to miss more than three of the weekly meetings (which effectively would mean missing one third of the course) is to forfeit credit for the course.**

### **Seminar Leading and Participation 15%**

Each student will be responsible for leading the discussion of the readings for the week once or twice in the semester. All students will be graded on the cogency of their contributions to the discussion.

### **Essay Proposal 10%**

Suggested topics will be provided. The proposal indicates your choice from among the topics or a topic of your choosing. It is to consist of a working title, a working bibliography, and a preliminary abstract that gives clearly the research question you are asking. A tentative thesis statement should indicate how you intend to focus the chosen topic and the argument to be developed. Due Feb. 13. Note: This proposal is an absolutely essential feature of the course. Decisions have to be made early in the semester on your topic as your research essay will probably involve using inter-library loan and other research avenues that necessitate being well underway long before your paper presentations on April 2.

### **Essay Draft 5%**

Due in class March 19. This draft must be no less than eight pages

### **“Conference” presentation of your research essay 15%**

The Paper Conference:

Our final meeting date will be devoted to presentations to the group of your papers. Each student

will present on his or her paper for about 15 minutes followed by 10 minutes for questions and discussion. You need to have a completed version of your paper ready for this day. Papers will be amended based on feedback given on this date before final submission.

### **Research Essay 40%**

A research essay of (15 + typed, double-spaced pages). Topics must be approved by the instructor. The original copy of your proposal must be resubmitted with the paper, essays will not be marked without it. Essays must have a clearly articulated thesis. Essays must also include an abstract. **Due April 2** at the time of your presentation. Revised paper due one week later. Note: late papers (except with medical documentation) are docked 4 percentage points per day.

*Note: All course requirements listed above must be fulfilled to gain credit for this course*

### **RESOURCES**

*The Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi*. Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, 1958-94. DS481.G3 A13 1958  
[Our library has 52 of the 90 volumes. The University of Ottawa has a complete set.]

Dinanath Gopal Tendulkar, *Mahatma: The Life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi* (Eight volumes). Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, 1960-66. DS481.G3T4 1960

Bhikkhu Parekh, *Gandhi: A Very Short Introduction*. OUP, 1997 is highly recommended. This is also available as an e-book through the Carleton library.

Joseph Lelyveld, *Great Soul: Mahatma Gandhi and His Struggle with India*. New York: Knopf, 2011.

### **Web Resources:**

[www.gandhiserve.org](http://www.gandhiserve.org)

[www.gandhitopia.org](http://www.gandhitopia.org)

<http://mkgandhi.org>

<http://www.gandhiserve.org/cwmg/cwmg.html>

Collected Works (but please read note on the controversy over the revised electronic edition)

<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/southasia/History/Gandhi/gandhi.html>

This is the site of UCLA historian Vinay Lal who has written extensively on Gandhi

## RELI 4852C Schedule

Mondays 2:35 - 5:25 [each session is in two halves: A and B]

Week One Jan. 9	A	Introducing the course. Attenborough's <i>Gandhi</i>
	B	Veena Rani Howard, "Gandhi, The Mahatma: Evolving Narratives and Native Discourse in Gandhi Studies." <i>Religion Compass</i> 1/3 (2007): 380-397.
Week Two Jan. 16	A	Historical background to British India. Reading: Autobiography Part I
	B	Reading: Thoreau <i>On Civil Disobedience</i> (1849) Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), <i>Walden and Other Writings</i> . ed. Brooks Atkinson. New York: The Modern Library, 2000.
Week Three Jan. 23	A	Reading: Autobiography Part II
	B	Reading: John Ruskin (1819-1900), <i>Unto this Last and Other Writings</i> , ed. Clive Wilmer. London: Penguin, 1997. Essay 1 "The Roots of Honour", Essay 4 " <i>Ad Valorem</i> "
Week Four Jan. 30	A	Reading: Autobiography Part III Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910), <i>The Kingdom of God is Within You</i> . trans. Constance Garnett. New York: Dover, 2006 [1894]. Ch. 1
	B	Reading: Tolstoy: "A Letter to a Hindu" (1908) Appendix A in Kalidas Nag, <i>Tolstoy and Gandhi</i> . Patna: Pustak Bhandar, 1950.
Week Five Feb. 6	A	Reading: Autobiography Part IV
	B	Reading: <i>Hind Swaraj</i>
Week Six Feb. 13	A	Reading: Autobiography Part V
	B	Reading: <i>Hind Swaraj</i> TERM PAPER PROPOSALS DUE
Week Seven Feb. 20		READING WEEK

Week Eight Feb. 27		Gandhi in Film Reading: Richard Grenier, "The Gandhi Nobody Knows" <i>Commentary</i> , 75:3 (1983): 59-72.
Week Nine Mar. 5	A	On Religion Reading: <i>The Essential Writings</i> , pp. 39 - 53
	B	On Religion. Reading: Noel Salmond, "Both iconoclast and idolater: Gandhi on the worship of images." <i>Studies in Religion/Sciences Religieuses</i> 31/3-4 (2002): 373 - 390.
Week Ten Mar. 12	A	Gandhi on the Bhagavad Gita Reading: <i>The Bhagavad Gita According to Gandhi</i> , Gandhi's Introduction pp. xv - xxiv
	B	<i>The Bhagavad Gita According to Gandhi</i> , chs. 1-3, 18
Week Eleven Mar. 19	A	On caste Reading: <i>The Essential Writings</i> , pp. 210 - 228
	B	Gandhi vs. Ambedkar Reading: Bhimrao Ambedkar, <i>What Congress and Gandhi Have Done to the Untouchables</i> , ch. 11, "Gandhism: The Doom of the Untouchables" PAPER DRAFT DUE
Week Twelve Mar. 26	A	Gandhi's Constructive Program Reading: <i>The Essential Writings</i> , pp. 161-184
	B	Gandhi and the Environment Reading: Larry Shinn, "The Inner Logic of Gandhian Ecology," in <i>Hinduism and Ecology</i> , ed. Christopher Chapple and Mary Evelyn Tucker. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000.
Week Thirteen Apr. 2	A	Paper Conference
	B	Paper Conference

## REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

### COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

### PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

### GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

### WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 5, 2011**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 5, 2012**.

### REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by Nov.11, 2011 for the Fall term and March 7, 2012 for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/)

### PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please **contact** the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

### ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor Library