

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MOHANDAS GANDHI - FALL 2019
SYLLABUS & SIGN UP [19-10-17]

Week	Pt.	Topics Covered	Reading
Week 1 9/13/19 Ch. 1 & 2	1	Introductions & Course Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temple / house rules - Syllabus overview - Class sessions and assignments - Q & A <p align="right">JIM & TOM</p>	
	2	India Before Gandhi <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land and peoples - Religion & society - Political features - How India was ruled <p align="right">JIM & TOM</p>	Ch. 1 & 2 pp. 1-24
Week 2 9/20/19 Ch. 1-4	1	Gandhi's Roots & Early Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gandhi's father- background, influence, caste - Gandhi's mother - background influence, religion - Gandhi's childhood, marriage - Early education, preoccupation with truth - Plans for higher education <p align="right">JIM</p>	Ch. 1 & 2 pp. 1-24 (review)
	2	Gandhi Becomes a Lawyer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law school in London, motives and problems - Efforts to adjust to English life - Vegetarianism - The Bhagavad Gita - Dada Abdulla and Co.- S. Africa job offer - Condition of Indians in S Africa <p align="right">TOM</p>	Ch. 3-4 pp. 25-60
Week 3 9/27/19 Ch. 6-11	1	Gandhi in South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trip to Pretoria; Maritzburg; other incidents - Exposure to Christianity - Franchise Amendment Bill; Gandhi's opposition - The Green Pamphlet; public response - The S.S. Courtland Affair and results <p align="right">ROBERT LEV</p>	Ch. 6-8 pp. 61-82
	2	New Challenges in South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Living in Durbin - Gandhi, Indians, and the Boer War - Travels in India - Newspaper "Indian Opinion"; Phoenix community - Bramacharya <p align="right">JOE PETTERUTI</p>	Ch. 9-11 pp. 83-108

Week 4 10/4/19 Ch. 12-16	1	Becoming a Political Activist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Satyagraha; Gandhi's conception of truth - Asiatic Law Amendment Act (The "Black Act") - Indian opposition; Satyagraha campers - Smuts and the registration settlement; betrayal? - Gandhi in jail LOUISE MOSS	Ch. 12-14 pp. 109-140
	2	Becoming a Political Leader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Influence of Thoreau; <i>Civil Disobedience</i> - Lord Amphill's Committee - Assassination of Sir Curzon Wylie by Savarkar - The New Outlook BARB AUGUST	Ch. 15-16 pp. 141-165
Week 5 10/11/19 Ch. 16-20	1	Critiques of Civilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carpenter, Chesterton - Tolstoy; <i>Letter to a Hindu</i> - <i>Hind Swaraj</i> - Tolstoy farm BOB MARTIN *	Ch. 16-18 pp. 150-178
	2	Dealing with the New Government in South Africa Tensions in the Indian National Congress (INC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ghokal, Gandhi, and Smuts - Satyagraha in 1913, and the Pact of 1914 - The INC and the Partition of Bengal - Moderates and extremists KAREN SCIOLTO	Ch. 19-20 pp. 179-203
Week 6 10/18/19 Ch. 21-27	1	Gandhi as a Leader of the "people" in India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Return to India - The Speech at Benares - Indigo farmers in Bihar - Mill hands protest land taxes in Kheda - WWI and the Rowlatt Bill HELEN HAWKINS	Ch. 21-24 pp. 204-236
	2	Gandhi as the Leader of the Indian National Congress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Amritsar Massacre - First Gandhi Congress; Khilafat movement - Program of non-cooperation/ Nagpur conference - Khadi movement/ civil disobedience campaign - The Great Trial - The Quiet Years KAREN OSTROFF	Ch. 25-27 pp. 237-265

Week 7 10/25/19 Ch. 29-33 <i>(Ch. 28 optional)</i>	1	Campaigns for Indian Independence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salt March; Dharasana Salt Works incident - Gandhi-Irwin talks; Delhi Pact - Gandhi in London JIM ESTEY	Ch. 29-31 pp. 287-320
	2	Movements Within India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal of separate electorates - Crusade against Untouchability - Ambedkar, Gandhi, fasting. The Yeravda Pact - Election of 1937 and aftermath ELIZABETH SHALLCROSS	Ch. 32, 33 pp. 321-342
Week 8 11/1/19 Ch. 34-39	1	Internal Conflicts and World War II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mohamed Ali Jinnah & the Muslim-Hindu Rift - Conflicts within the INC; Subhas Bose - Gandhi, Hitler, and the Jews - Response to the Nazi threat & India's status BOB MARTIN *	Ch. 34-36 pp. 343-374
	2	India During the War Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The British position - "Quit India" movement - Events of the War Years - Discussions about Independence TOM BACKMAN	Ch. 37-39 pp. 375-407
Week 9 11/8/19 Ch. 40-46	1	India 1945-1948 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Cabinet Mission - Negotiations about Independence - British election of 1945, the Mountbatten Plan - Gandhi's decreasing influence CARROLLYN GRACE	Ch. 40-42 pp. 408-437
	2	Modern South Asia Emerges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Indian & Pakistani Independence - Gandhi despair - Violence between Muslims & Hindus - JOE PETTERUTI	Ch. 43-46 pp. 438-455
Week 10 11/15/19 Ch. 46-50	1	The Ending <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gandhi's Last Days - Assassination - The conspirators BOB LEV	Ch. 46-50 pp. 456-503
	2	Gandhi's Legacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Class Discussion - Conclusions JIM & TOM	

DISCUSSION LEADER GUIDELINES

[THESE WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSED IN SESSION 1]

[REVISED 19/09/05]

Tom: [TOM@TBACKMAN.COM]

Jim: (401) 351-1748

- 1] Email to Tom your choice of discussion topics.
 - We have 3 extra topics; would you be willing to lead a second topic?
 - Send me the top 3 topics you will be interested in leading.
 - You will get your highest choice available, and I will get back to you as soon as possible.
 - I will give frequent updates about what topics are still open.

- 2] Give a brief review of the important features of your of topic.
 - Length should be brief and no more than 15 minutes.
 - Remember the class has already read the chapter.
 - Tom will help you with any technical aspect of your presentation.
 - An electronic presentation needs to be brought to class on a zip drive.

- 3] Create 5 stimulating and provocative discussion questions for the class.
 - Contact Jim for help on your questions.
 - Email your questions to Tom by Wednesday evening prior to your presentation for distribution to the class on Thursday.

- 4] Be prepared to Lead a 35 – 45 minute class discussion.
 - Jim and Tom will help you facilitate the discussion.
 - LLC members are famous for being great and interesting discussants.

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WEEK 2 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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Week 2 9/20/19 Ch. 1-4	1	Gandhi's Roots & Early Life <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gandhi's father- background, influence, caste - Gandhi's mother - background influence, religion - Gandhi's childhood, marriage - Early education, preoccupation with truth - Plans for higher education 	Ch. 1 & 2 pp. 1-24 (review)
	2	Gandhi Becomes a Lawyer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law school in London, motives and problems - Efforts to adjust to English life - Vegetarianism - The Bhagavad Gita - Dada Abdulla and Co.- S. Africa job offer - Condition of Indians in S Africa 	Ch. 3-4 pp. 25-60

PART 1] DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Describe the status and career of Gandhi's father and also his character traits. How and to what extent did Gandhi admire him and follow his footsteps? Was he an admirable man and good father?
2. Describe the life, values and practicess of Gandhi's mother and that of the Vaishnauas. Was she an admirable woman and good mother? How was Gandhi like her? How was he different?
3. What were the main features and issues of Gandhi's childhood and early education? How did these early experiences shape his outlook?
4. What can be said of Gandhi's child marriage and the role of women in traditional India?
5. Describe the circumstances, issues and plans for Ganchi's higher education? What were the obsticals? Did these plans make sense?

PART 2] DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Describe the Indian boy Gandhi at age 18, before moving to London.
2. What were Gandhi's feelings about being an Indian in London and what did he do about it.
3. What were his ideas on vegetarianism and how did it affect his life.
4. What was the impact of Bhagavad Gita on his philosophy of life.
5. How did the job with Dada Abdulla and Co in South Africa change the direction of his life.

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WEEK 3 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week	Pt.	Topics Covered	Reading
Week 3 9/27/19 Ch. 6-11	1	Gandhi in South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trip to Pretoria; Maritzburg; other incidents - Exposure to Christianity - Franchise Amendment Bill; Gandhi's opposition - The Green Pamphlet; public response - The S.S. Courtland Affair and results 	Ch. 6-8 pp. 61-82
	2	New Challenges in South Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Living in Durbin - Gandhi, Indians, and the Boer War - Travels in India - Newspaper "Indian Opinion"; Phoenix community - Bramacharya 	Ch. 9-11 pp. 83-108

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WEEK 4 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week	Pt.	Topics Covered	Reading
Week 4 10/4/19 Ch. 12-16	1	Becoming a Political Activist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Satyagraha; Gandhi's conception of truth - Asiatic Law Amendment Act (The "Black Act") - Indian opposition; Satyagraha campers - Smuts and the registration settlement; betrayal? - Gandhi in jail <p style="text-align: right;">[Louise Moss]</p>	Ch. 12-14 pp. 109-140
	2	Becoming a Political Leader <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Influence of Thoreau; <i>Civil Disobedience</i> - Lord Ampthill's Committee - Assassination of Sir Curzon Wylie by Savarkar - The New Outlook <p style="text-align: right;">[Barb August]</p>	Ch. 15-16 pp. 141-165

WEEK 4/1 Becoming a Political Activist LOUISE MOSS

Louise said that she will give us her questions in class.

WEEK 4/2 Becoming a Political Leader BARB AUGUST

1. What makes a political leader of a country.
 2. Is it easier for a leader to establish themselves during war or peace?
- Please come up with name of a leader that has come from a country of peace or has been in war.

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WEEK 5 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week	Pt.	Topics Covered	Reading
Week 5 10/11/19 Ch. 16-20	1	Critiques of Civilization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carpenter, Chesterton - Tolstoy; <i>Letter to a Hindu</i> - <i>Hind Swaraj</i> - Tolstoy farm <p style="text-align: right;">Bob Martin</p>	Ch. 16-18 pp. 150-178
	2	Dealing with the New Government in South Africa Tensions in the Indian National Congress (INC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ghokal, Gandhi, and Smuts - Satyagraha in 1913, and the Pact of 1914 - The INC and the Partition of Bengal - Moderates and extremists 	Ch. 19-20 pp. 179-203

WEEK 5/1: CRITICS OF CIVILIZATION Bob Martin.

My topic for next week is Gandhi's "Critiques of Civilization," and I will base what I say primarily on his *Hind Swaraj*, a copy of which is attached for transmission to the members of the class.

My message to the class about *Hind Swaraj* is that you do not necessarily need to read the whole thing! It is suggested that you pay special attention to chapters 4, 7, 14, 16, & 17.

My five questions for the class are as follows:

1. What were the key ideas that Gandhi took from the writings of Ruskin, Carpenter and Chesterton?
2. Who was the Ratan Tata who sent 20,000 rupees to Gandhi, and where did he get his money?
3. How was Tolstoy Farm different from the Phoenix Settlement?
4. How were Gandhi's ideas similar to Tolstoy's? How were they different?
5. Was Gandhi right about modern civilization?

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WEEK 6 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week	Pt.	Topics Covered	Reading
Week 6 10/18/19 Ch. 21-27	1	Gandhi as a Leader of the “people” in India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Return to India - The Speech at Benares - Indigo farmers in Bihar - Mill hands protest land taxes in Kheda - WWI and the Rowlatt Bill <p align="right">[Helen Hawkins]</p>	Ch. 21-24 pp. 204-236
	2	Gandhi as the Leader of the Indian National Congress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Amritsar Massacre - First Gandhi Congress; Khilafat movement - Program of non-cooperation/ Nagpur conference - Khadi movement/ civil disobedience campaign - The Great Trial - The Quiet Years <p align="right">[Karen Ostroff]</p>	Ch. 25-27 pp. 237-265

WEEK 6/1 Gandhi as a Leader of the “people” in India HELEN HAWKINS

- 1) How do you regard Gandhi’s decision to adopt Lakshmi, an untouchable, as his daughter at the Satyagraha ashram?
- 2) What major points did Gandhi deliver in his speech at Banaras Hindu University? Why was this speech so important?
- 3) Why did Gandhi resort to fasting in order to bring attention to the grievances of the mill workers in Almadabad? What fear was motivating him to go on this fast?
- 4) Why did Gandhi support the resolution calling for the recruitment of 500,000 Indians for the British Army?
- 5) What was the immediate result of the April 6th hartal? What was the further result?

WEEK 6/2 Gandhi as the Leader of the Indian National Congress KAREN OSTROFF

1. What was it about the craft of spinning that made it so appealing to Gandhi? Why not weaving, or basketry?

2. Was Gandhi's desire to have India return to a more agrarian lifestyle realistic? How successful was he? Could it have worked under different circumstances?

3. Did the plan have value anyway? Of what sort?

4. Can you think of another country/state/province that uses a specific item for a symbol?

1. What did the Amritsar Massacre reveal about British rule in India? How did it affect Gandhi's ideas and actions?

2. What were the activities and results of Gandhi's "non-cooperation campaign"? Did it have merit as a workable example of satyagraha?

3. How effective was Gandhi as the political leader of the Indian National Congress in the 1920s?

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WEEK 7 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week	Pt.	Topics Covered	Reading
Week 7 10/25/19 Ch. 29-33 <i>(Ch. 28 optional)</i>	1	Campaigns for Indian Independence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salt March; Dharasana Salt Works incident - Gandhi-Irwin talks; Delhi Pact - Gandhi in London <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">JIM ESTEY</p>	Ch. 29-31 pp. 287-320
	2	Movements Within India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal of separate electorates - Crusade against Untouchability - Ambedkar, Gandhi, fasting. The Yeravda Pact - Election of 1937 and aftermath <p style="text-align: right; color: red;">ELIZABETH SHALLCROSS</p>	Ch. 32, 33 pp. 321-342

REVIEW QUESTION FOR WEEK 6

How and to what extent was Gandhi an effective political leader in the 1920s? Consider his major goals and tactics.

WEEK 7/1 CAMPAIGNS FOR INDIAN INDEPENDENCE JIM ESTEY

Questions for Chapters 29-30-31 (chapters 29 and 30 are really good chapters.)

1. What was unique and impressive about the "Salt March"? If you were Indian, would you have joined this campaign?
2. What does the incident at the Dharasana Salt works reveal to us about human beings and human behavior? Was this event necessary?
3. What is your evaluation of the Gandhi-Irwin talks and the "Delhi Pact"? Was this one of Gandhi's "finest hours"?
4. The Roundtable Conference in the fall of 1931 wrestled with a number of difficult issues. Did it accomplish anything significant? Why or why not?
5. Was Gandhi easy or difficult to work with?

WEEK 7/2 MOVEMENTS WITHIN INDIA ELIZABETH SHALLCROSS

Chapter 32-33 questions
 E. Shallcross

1. How did the Separate Electorates proposal reveal Britain's true intentions in India?
2. How did the Yeravda Pact underscore Gandhi's influence and power?
3. What were the issues of disagreement between Gandhi and Margaret Sanger? What comments would you make to each of them?
4. What was the situation of the Untouchables in India? What were Gandhi's convictions regarding the future of this group? How did his views differ from those of Ambedkar? What approach would you have suggested?
5. During the crusade against the Untouchables, Gandhi carried out his decision to fast several times. What were the results of his fasts? Was fasting a viable method of protest?

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WEEK 8 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week	Pt.	Topics Covered	Reading
Week 8 11/1/19 Ch. 34-39	1	Internal Conflicts and World War II <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mohamed Ali Jinnah & the Muslim-Hindu Rift - Conflicts within the INC; Subhas Bose - Gandhi, Hitler, and the Jews - Response to the Nazi threat & India's status 	Ch. 34-36 pp. 343-374
	2	India During the War Years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The British position - "Quit India" movement - Events of the War Years - Discussions about Independence 	Ch. 37-39 pp. 375-407

8/1 INTERNAL CONFLICTS & WORLD WAR II - BOB MARTIN.

1. What was the first major issue that divided Jinnah from Gandhi?
2. How did Gandhi and Nehru view the Muslim League?
3. Were Jinnah's fears about Hindu dominance of Indian government justified?
4. What was the Lahore Resolution and why was it important?
5. From 1921 to 1945 How much time did Nehru spend in prison?

8/2 INDIA DURING THE WARS – TOM BACKMAN & ANN MASON

1. Why did the Cripps mission fail.? What was the significance of Gandhi's response to Article E of the Cripps proposal?
2. Great Brittan, the Indian National Congress, and the Muslim League were locked in a struggle for the future of India.

- A. What was Great Brittan's goal for India's future? What were its strategies to achieve this? Who were the main characters?
- B. What were the I.N.C's goals for the future of India? What were its strategies to achieve these goals? Who were its main characters? How did Gandhi's ideas differ?
- C. What was the goal of the Muslim League for the future of India? What were its strategies? Who were the main characters?
- D. How did the above parties use the war and the threat of a Japanese invasion to advance their goals?

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WEEK 9 DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week	Pt.	Topics Covered	Reading
Week 9 11/8/19 Ch. 40-46	1	The Women in Gandhi's Life - You know the history, lets look at her story. <div style="text-align: right; color: red;">CARROLLYN GRACE</div>	Special report
	2	India 1945-1948 - The Cabinet Mission - Negotiations about Independence - British election of 1945, the Mountbatten Plan - Gandhi's decreasing influence <div style="text-align: right; color: red;">JIM ESTEY</div>	Ch. 40-42 pp. 408-437
	3	Modern South Asia Emerges - Indian & Pakistani Independence - Gandhi despair - Violence between Muslims & Hindus <div style="text-align: right; color: red;">JOE PETTERUTI</div>	Ch. 43-46 pp. 438-455

1 THE WOMEN IN GANDHI" LIFE:

- Questions to consider for discussion after Carrollyn's talk
1. Why do you think Gandhi surround himself with intelligent, young women?
 2. Do you think Gandhi used them in a way no ordinary man could?
 3. Why were the women so devoted to him?

2 INDIA 1945 – 1948:

1. What was the Cabinet Mission of 1945? Explain Gandhi's role. Why did it fail?
2. What was the Ordeal of Noakhali? How was Gandhi involved and how was he changed by his experiences?
3. What was the impact of the British election of 1945 on the Indian independence movement? How did British political leaders regard Gandhi in the last years of his life?
4. What did Lord Mountbatten do that changed the history of India? Should Indians have been supportive and grateful, or not?
5. Was Gandhi a "Mahatma" in his final years? Why or why not?

3 MODERN SOUTH ASIA EMERGES:

Questions - Joe Petteruti 11/08/19

Chapter 43- *Calcutta*

1. Was religion the sole cause of the “fratricide” in India? Can you point out other areas of disagreement which caused internal strife?
2. Was the “partition” of India inevitable? Could the various warring factions have found a way to keep India unified as one entity?

Chapter 44 -*Anguished Refugees*

3. Why was Kashmir so unwilling to align itself with either Pakistan or the new India? Why did the Kashmir citizens feel so independent?

Chapter 45-*The Last Fast*

4. By this time period, Gandhi had lost all of his political power. Why did politicians, statesmen and even Lord Mountbattan seek Gandhi’s counsel?
5. Were Gandhi’s fasts manipulative? Were they effective?

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10 WEEK DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week	Pt.	Topics Covered	Reading
Week 10 11/15/19 Ch. 46-50	1	The Ending <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gandhi's Last Days - Assassination - The conspirators <p style="text-align: right; color: red; margin-top: 10px;">BOB LEV</p>	Ch. 46-50 pp. 456-503
	2	Gandhi's Legacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Class Discussion - Conclusions - Movie 	

10/1 THE ENDING

BOB LEV

Bob Lev:

PREPARATION FOR CLASS:

1) I recommend reading chapters 48 and 49 for information on the two assassination attempts on Gandhi's life, but I don't want to discuss that subject in class.

2) More importantly, focus on the various commentaries on Gandhi's death and his effect on India's history.

- a. Readings from Bhagavad Gita (P. 463)
- b. Editorials in NY and London Times (P. 467)
- c. Ambivalence of viceroy Lord Wavell (P. 467)
- d. Testimony of Godse during his trial for murder of Gandhi (pp 497 on)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR CLASS:

- 1) What were Godse's main objections to Gandhi? Were any of them justified?
- 2) What was Gandhi's role in the British departure from India? Were there other factors?
- 3) In general, was Gandhi a saint, an astute politician, both or neither?
- 4) Is violence sometimes necessary to achieve legitimate goals? Cite examples from Bhagavad Gita and Indian history (e.g. Shivaji 17c)
- 5) Did Gandhi's provincialism limit his impact on the emergence of the modern India?