



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Mahatma Gandhi in Indian and World History - 8167

Last update 05-01-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: "Amirim" Honors Program

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Rotem Geva

Coordinator Email: rotem.geva2@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Rotem Geva Halper

Course/Module description:

Known as the "Mahatma," Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was one of the most influential anticolonial thinkers and activists of the twentieth century. His extensive writings on religion and philosophy, society and politics, economics, and ecology influenced modern India and inspired political, social, and environmental activists worldwide. By exploring the complexities and contradictions of Gandhi's thought, practice, and legacy in this course, we will gain insight into the tensions underlying the British Empire and Indian nationalism. For example, Gandhi is seen as the most "authentic" representative of the Indian nation, yet his "Indianness" was shaped during his long stays outside India—in London and South Africa—and through dialogue with Western thinkers and colleagues. A further complexity lies in Gandhi's dual role as an ascetic saint and a shrewd politician, which generated fierce critics and opponents. We will also explore the importance of the body in Gandhian thought and practices, the power and limitations of nonviolent resistance, nationalism and religion, and the tension between national identity and class/caste.

Course/Module aims:

Learn about the history of modern India, explore Mahatma Gandhi's thought and practice, and gain skills in academic writing, reading, and analyzing primary and secondary sources.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

To deepen their knowledge of the history of India to analyze central issues in the study of Gandhi. modern India and nonviolent resistance, to acquire reading, writing, and analysis skills.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

For a detailed list see the course Moodle.

- * Introduction to the course
- * Gandhian political thought
- * Gandhian thoughts: sources of inspiration

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- * *Gandhi in South Africa*
 - * *Gandhi in South Africa: a critical perspective*
 - * *The Gandhian mass movement between two world wars*
 - * *nonviolent resistance: achievements and challenges*
 - * *Gandhi and the peasants: subaltern studies*
 - * *Gandhi and Ambedkar: caste politics*
 - * *Gandhi and India's partition: religious nationalism*
 - * *Gandhi and ecology*
 - * *Gandhi's assassination and his legacy in India*

Required Reading:

Selected bibliography (full list on the course Moodle):

Gandhi, M. K. An Autobiography or the Story of My Experiments with Truth. Translated by Mahadev Desai from Gujarati. Ahmedabad: Navajivan Mudranalaya, 1927.

Gandhi, M. K. Satyagraha in South Africa. Translated by Valji Govindji Desai from the Gujarati. Madras: S. Ganeshan, 1928.

[תורגם לעברית: גנדהי, מוהנדאס קרמצ'נד. סטיהגרהה בדרום אפריקה. תורגם מאנגלית בידי מתן קמינר. בבל, תשע"ד / 2014].
Mukherjee, Rudrangshu, ed. The Penguin Gandhi Reader. New York: Penguin Books, 1993.

Brown, Judith M., and Anthony Parel, eds. The Cambridge Companion to Gandhi. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Gandhi, M.K. Hind Swaraj and Other Writings. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009 [1909].

Swami Vivekananda's Addresses at the World's Parliament of Religions, 1893 (a Collection of Three Lectures). Calcutta: Advaita Ashrama, 1993.

Habib, Irfan. "Gandhi and the National Movement." Social Scientist 23, no. 4/6 (1995): 3-15.

Nandy, Ashis. The Intimate Enemy: Loss and Recovery of Self under Colonialism. Delhi; New York: Oxford University Press, 1983.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 65 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 15 %

*Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports
/ Forum / Simulation / others 20 %*

Additional information:

Please note that regular attendance is mandatory. Absences will result in a deduction from one's grade, and if a student accumulates more than three absences (excluding reserve duty and exceptional circumstances supported by documentation), they will be required to discontinue the course. Students are expected to come to the sessions prepared for discussion, having read the assigned material at home. Preparedness for the sessions is accompanied by short writing assignments before each class, which are mandatory (ungraded). The course cannot be completed without submitting these assignments on time.