REL 4933: Being Gandhi

Instructor: Dr. A. Whitney Sanford
Office: 107 Anderson Hall
Email: wsanford@ufl.edu
Telephone: 392-1625
T 2 (And 21); R 2-3 (And 21)
Office hours: T 9:30-11; R 10:30-12

Description
Mohandas K. Gandhi has become an icon for social justice for leaders around the world. A set of values associated with Gandhi, including non-violence, civil disobedience, and voluntary simplicity, have provided a vocabulary for social change. This course explores how groups, movements, and individuals from different religious traditions have incorporated Gandhian thought and practice into the context of their own traditions. Topics include, but are not limited to, Thich Nhat Hanh; Badshah Khan; the US Civil rights movement; the Catholic Workers Movement; and contemporary non-violent social movements.

Course Requirements and Assignments
1. Attendance and participation in class discussions, including timely and close reading of all assigned texts. Unannounced quizzes on readings may be included and will be concentrated in the second half of the semester. (10% of final grade)

2. Class presentation of research paper (10% of final grade).

3. Midterm examination (25% total).

4. One short essay (4-5 double-spaced pages, 1000 words each) based on contemporary application of Gandhian thought. This essay will be based in a field assignment or trip, based on class discussion. Options will be discussed in class, but could include a visit to the Gainesville Catholic Worker House or an event at the River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding. (15% of final grade)

5. Final research paper (12-15 pages) that explores Gandhi or Gandhi’s influence on religion or a social movement (40%)

*Consistent with Gordon Rule standards, the instructor will evaluate and provide feedback on the student's written assignments with respect to grammar, punctuation, usage of standard written English, clarity, coherence, and organization. (See below for grading rubric)

Gordon Rule –
This course counts for Gordon Rule 6 credit.

The Writing Requirement (Gordon Rule) ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning.

Course grades now have two components. To receive writing credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course.
The instructor will evaluate and provide feedback on the student's written assignments with respect to grammar, punctuation, usage of standard written English, clarity, coherence, and organization. Students will receive a grade and corrections on their work. Students will be graded according to the following rubric:

Students will complete one short essay (4-5 double-spaced, 1000 words) and one research paper (15-20 pages, 5000 words). The short essay will be due on October 18, and feedback returned the following week. The research paper will be due on November 27, and feedback returned the following week.

Assessment:
1.) What type of feedback will be provided to the student (in reference to writing skill)?

   ___X____Grade ___X____Corrections ______Drafts ______Other

2.) Will a published rubric be used? Yes (see below)

Grading Policies and Scale

Full information about UF’s grading policy, including credit for major, minor, General Education, and other requirements, is available at this website: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html

The grade scale for this course is as follows:

A 93-100
A- 90-93
B+ 87-89
B 84-86
B- 80-83
C+ 77-79
C 74-76
C- 70-73
D+ 67-69
D 64-66
D- 60-63
E Below 60

Please note that a C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, General Education, Gordon Rule, or College Basic distribution credit. To achieve such credit you must achieve a C or better in this class. http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html

Policies, Rules, and Resources
1. **Handing in Assignments:** Place all papers in my mailbox in the Religion Department, 107 Anderson Hall. DO NOT slip them under the door or leave them on the door of my office, the main department office, or the teaching assistant’s office. Please also keep a dated electronic copy of all your papers.

2. **Late or Make-Up Assignments:** You may take an exam early or receive an extension on an exam or essay assignment *only* in extraordinary circumstances *and* with prior approval from the instructor. If an extension is not granted, the assignment will be marked down 1/3 grade (e.g., from B+ to B) for each day late.

3. **Completion of All Assignments:** You must complete all written and oral assignments and fulfill the requirement for class participation in order to pass the course. I will not average a grade that is missing for any assignment. You are responsible for knowing the course requirements and making sure you hand them in. I will not remind you of missing assignments.

4. **Attendance and Participation:** Class attendance is required. Do not register for this class if you cannot arrive on time. Students should arrive on time and prepared to discuss the day’s readings. Tardiness harms your understanding of the material and disrupts the class. After the first late arrival, the instructor reserves the right to mark you absent, without an excused absence. The instructor will *not* provide notes or discuss material that has already been covered for students who arrive late, barring extraordinary circumstances (which do not include failing to find a parking place or sleeping in).

5. **Common Courtesy:** Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off during class. Students who receive or make calls or text messages during class will be asked to leave and counted absent for the day. Students may take notes on a laptop computer only with prior approval from the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to ask you to turn off the computer if circumstances warrant. The instructor also reserves the right to ask any student engaging in disruptive behavior (e.g., whispering, reading a newspaper) to leave the class. If that occurs, the student will be marked absent for the day.

6. **Honor Code:** On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The university specifically prohibits cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, conspiracy, and fabrication. For more information about the definition of these terms and other aspects of the Honesty Guidelines, see [http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html](http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html). Any student(s) demonstrated to have cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise violated the Honor Code in *any assignment* for this course will fail the course. In addition, violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines shall result in judicial action and the sanctions listed in paragraph XI of the Student Conduct Code.

7. **Accommodation for Disabilities:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)
8. **Counseling Resources**: Resources available on-campus for students include the following:
   a. University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
   b. Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
   c. Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling;
   d. Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

9. **Software Use**: All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

10. **Writing Assistance**: In addition to scheduling time with the instructor, students are highly encouraged to seek assistance from the University Reading and Writing Center ([http://www.at.ufl.edu/rwcenter/index.html](http://www.at.ufl.edu/rwcenter/index.html)). For additional assistance, I recommend Joshua Sowin’s “A Guide to Writing Well” ([http://www.fireandknowledge.org/archives/2007/01/08/a-guide-to-writing-well/](http://www.fireandknowledge.org/archives/2007/01/08/a-guide-to-writing-well/)). The University of Wisconsin-Madison Writing Center is also a valuable resource, especially for basic citation information: ([http://www.writing.wisc.edu/](http://www.writing.wisc.edu/)).

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**Required Readings**

PLEASE NOTE: All readings will be available on reserve at Library West and/or on line.

**Required reading: Books**


Mark, Juergensmeyer, *Gandhi's Way. A Handbook of Conflict Resolution, Updated with a New Preface and New Case Study*

Mark Shephard, *The Community of the Ark*

**Schedule**

**PLEASE NOTE**: There may be changes in dates and assignments as the semester proceeds. Students will be informed of any changes and will be responsible for having assignments completed by the updated due dates.

August 23  
Introduction to the Course: Why Gandhi?

**Before Gandhi**
August 28  Christian Peace Churches and Non-violence
Ira Chernus, “The Anabaptists”
(http://www.maryknollsocietymall.org/chapters/1-57075-547-7.pdf)

August 30  Thoreau: “On Civil Disobedience”
(http://thoreau.eserver.org/civil1.html)

Mohandas K. Gandhi: Mahatma

September 4  Gandhi—The Movie

September 6  Gandhi—The Movie

September 11  Essential Gandhi
121-155

September 13  Gandhi and the Gita
http://www.mkgandhi.org/swmgandhi/chap02.htm/TBA
Essential Gandhi 155-163

September 18  Essential Gandhi
164-197; 246-79

September 20  Hardiman, “An Alternate Modernity”
(E-learning)

September 25  Easwaran, Nonviolent Soldier of Islam

September 27  Easwaran, Nonviolent Soldier of Islam

October 2  Review discussion

October 4  Midterm exam

Gandhi and Non-violence in the US

October 9  Mark Juergensmeyer, Gandhi’s Way, 1-63

October 11  Mark Juergensmeyer, Gandhi’s Way, 64-111
Short Essay due

October 16  Gandhi and Social Movements in the US
Ira Chernus, “World War I”
http://spot.colorado.edu/~chernus/NonviolenceBook/WorldWarI.htmEssential
Gandhi 280-283

October 18  Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement
(http://www.sbcw.org/PDF/onpilgrimage.pdf)
Revised version of Short Essay due
October 23  Field trip/TBA

October 25  “This Far by Faith”, pt. 1
Discussion of paper topics

October 30  “This Far by Faith”, pt. 2

November 1  Film: Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin
(http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2012/01/16/145179885/cooking-up-change-how-food-helped-fuel-the-civil-rights-movement)
Abstract and sources due

November 6  Mark Shephard, The Community of the Ark

November 8  Contemporary Intentional Communities
Sanford, “Reflections of Gandhi”
First draft of Research Papers due

November 13  Thich Nhat Hanh, “In the Footsteps of Gandhi” (E-learning)
“Call me By My True Names”
http://www.quietspaces.com/poemHanh.html

November 15  Film: Peace is Every Step

November 20 – No class – AAR – Work on papers and presentations

November 22 – Thanksgiving

November 27  Final presentations
Research Papers due

November 29  Final presentations

December 4  Conclusions/Final presentations