History of Indian Nonviolence

HIST 4558-001
Fall 2015
T/TH – 2:00pm -3:15pm
Hellem 237

Professor Sanjay Gautam
Office: HLMS 250
Office Hours: Thursday 10:00am 12:00 pm
Email: sanjay.gautam@colorado.edu

This course focuses on the history of nonviolence from the time of the Buddha to Gandhi, who led India to national independence from the British Empire in 1947 through a nonviolent resistance movement. The course pursues this history in light of the encounter between Indian and western cultural traditions in the wake of the British colonization of India that started in 1757.

Course Requirements

The writing requirements for this course are: a 3 page proposal due in the 8th week and a 10-12 page research paper due in the 16th week. There will also be two exams (5th and 13th weeks) in this course. In addition, everyone is expected to attend regularly and contribute actively to class discussions. Grades will be determined in the following manner:

(1) Research proposal 15%
(2) Research paper 40%
(3) Two exams (15% each) 30%
(4) Class Attendance and participation 15%
(attendance will be taken at random)

Required Texts

- Gandhi, Autobiography: the Story of My Experiments with Truth
- Mithi Mukherjee, India in the Shadows of Empire, (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2012)

Copies of the required books and readings are available at the CU Bookstore. They will also be on reserve in Norlin Library. All other articles or excerpts on the syllabus will be placed on d2l.

Disability Statement: If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Disability Services Office in Willard 322 (phone 303-492-8671).

Procedures about Absences due to Religious Observances: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students, who, because of religious observances, have conflicts with scheduled exams,
assignments or require attendance. Please let me know of any conflicts in advance so that your needs may be accommodated.

**Honor Code:** All Students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). For further information, see [http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/](http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/).

**Decorum Statement:** Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity, and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. Additional information may be found at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html).

**Sexual Harassment:** The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff, and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Further information can be obtained at [http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment](http://www.colorado.edu/sexualharassment/)

**Writing Assistance:** If you want assistance or pointers on your writing, contact the Writing Center. For information, see [http://www.colorado.edu/pwr/wctext.html](http://www.colorado.edu/pwr/wctext.html)

**SECTION ONE: INTELLECTUAL TRADITIONS OF PREMODERN INDIA**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK ONE</th>
<th>Vedic Religion and Spiritual Liberation in Hinduism</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 25-27</td>
<td>Sources of Indian Tradition, Vol. 1, 3-42</td>
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<th>WEEK TWO</th>
<th>Renunciation, Spiritual Liberation in Buddhism and Jainism</th>
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<th>WEEK THREE</th>
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WEEK FOUR  
Sept. 15 – 17  
The Epic: The Mahabharata  
R. K. Narayan, *The Mahabharata*  
Film: Peter Brook’s Mahabharata  

FIRST EXAM ON SEPTEMBER 24  

WEEK FIVE  
Sept. 22 – 24  
From Spiritual Liberation to Spiritual Love/ Bhakti  
Sources of Indian Tradition, Vol. 1, 342-378, 447-490  

SECTION TWO: COLONIAL INDIA  

WEEK SIX  
Sept. 29 – Oct. 1  
British Colonialism in India and its conflicting visions: Colonial versus Imperial  
Mithi Mukherjee, *India in the Shadows of Empire*, 1-44.  

WEEK SEVEN  
Oct. 6 - 8  
Orientalism and the advent of colonialism as pedagogy  
James Mill, *History of India*, Selections  
Edward Said, *Orientalism*, Selections  

PROPOSAL DUE ON OCTOBER 15  

WEEK EIGHT  
Oct. 13 - 15  
Colonialism as civilizational pedagogy and the Hindu social reform movement in the 19th century  

WEEK NINE  
Oct. 20 - 22  
Colonialism as political pedagogy and the advent of anti-colonial politics and its limits  
Mukherjee, *India in the Shadows of Empire*, 72-104, 105-149.  

WEEK TEN  
Oct. 27 - 29  
Gandhi  
Film: Gandhi
WEEK ELEVEN
Nov. 3 - 5  Gandhi’s political breakthrough: Birth of non-violent anti-colonial mass movement
Gandhi: *Autobiography*

WEEK TWELVE
Nov. 10 - 12  Gandhi: Non-violence and Gandhian thought
Mithi Mukherjee, *India in the Shadows of Empire*, 150-180
Gandhi: *Autobiography*

SECTION THREE: POST-INDEPENDENCE INDIA

SECOND EXAM ON NOV. 17.

WEEK THIRTEEN
Nov. 17- 19  Envisioning the future of India: Hindu nationalism and Gandhi
*Sources of Indian Tradition*, Vol. 2, 128-172.
V. D. Savarkar, *Hindutva*.
Mithi Mukherjee, *India in the Shadows of Empire*, 150-180
Selections

WEEK FOURTEEN
Nov. 24 - 26  FALL BREAK/THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASSES

WEEK FIFTEEN
Dec. 1 - 3  Gandhi, Globalization, and Environmentalism
*Dalton, Nonviolence in Action*, 168-87
Selected readings

WEEK SIXTEEN
Dec. 8- 10  Study Week

FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE ON THURSDAY DEC. 10