

BPS-G503

Generic Elective -2 (Interdisciplinary): (2)

1) Reading Gandhi

Course Objective: The course seeks to meet two essential objectives: one, to acquaint the students with the art of reading texts, to enable them to grasp its conceptual and argumentative structure and to help them acquire the skills to locate the texts in a broader intellectual and socio-historical context. Second, it aims to acquaint the students with the social and political thought of Gandhi. The themes in Gandhian thought that are chosen for a close reading are particularly relevant to our times.

A). Ways to read a text:

a. textual

b. contextual

- Terence Ball, *Reappraising Political Theory*, Ch. 1, OUP, 1995
- "Meaning and Interpretation in the History of Ideas" in *Visions of Politics*, Quentin Skinner (ed.), Vol. 1, CUP, Cambridge, 2002.

B) Hind Swaraj:

1. Gandhi in his own words: A close reading of Hind Swaraj.

2. Commentaries on Hind Swaraj and Gandhian thought:

- "Introduction", M.K.Gandhi, Hind Swaraj and other writings ed. A.J.Parel (1997).
- B.Parekh, *Gandhi* (1997), chs. 4 ("Satyagraha") and 5("The critique of modernity").
- D.Hardiman, *Gandhi in his time and ours* (2003), ch.4("An alternative modernity")

C) Gandhi and modern India.

- a. Nationalism.
- b. Communal unity
- c. Women's Question
- d. Untouchability.

This component will contain the following selections from Gandhi's India of my Dreams (compiled R.K.Prabhu): "The meaning of Swaraj" (no.2); "In defence of Nationalism" (no.3); "India's cultural heritage" (no.45); "Regeneration of Indian women" (no.54); "Women's education" (no.55); "Communal unity" (no.59); "The curse of untouchability" (no.61); "Religious tolerance in India" (no.62); "The problem of minorities" (no.66)