

**History 2160B**  
**Gandhi, Mandela & Nonviolence**  
**Winter 2026 | 2025 – 26**

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Office: **Department of History, Lawson Hall Room #1220**

Office Hours: **By Appointment via Zoom or In-Person**

**This is a DRAFT outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.**

### **Course Description**

This course is a study of the ideas of nonviolence as practiced, denounced, and practiced again by Mohandas Gandhi and Nelson Mandela and their contemporaries at home and abroad in British colonial and apartheid South Africa (1800-1994). Through the broad canvases of imperialism and colonialism, the course considers the British empire's impact on the lives of Africans and Asians in southern Africa broadly, and South Africa in particular. The course also briefly considers Ghandian and Mandelan inspired nonviolence activism globally—the afterlives of Gandhi and Mandela. Overall, the course studies Gandhi and Mandela's turn toward nonviolent activism, and the memory of their lives and works in South Africa, and beyond.

### **Course Syllabus**

The goal is to have students able to:

- Identify and discuss the basic ideas of nonviolence as practiced by Gandhi, Mandela, and their contemporaries
- Map Gandhi, Mandela, and their contemporaries on the geography of the British empire.
- Distinguish between the historical figures studied and their memory among the living.

### **Methods of Evaluation**

- **30% Attendance, Preparation and Participation:**
  - Physical presence: missing more than two classes lowers this portion to half its value (15%)
  - Class preparation and engagement; and active individual and teamwork (15%)
- **50% Five In-Class Team Quizzes @ 10% each**
  - Teams will be prearranged and will change over time; missing a class during this portion means you do not get the team grade for the assignment.
- **20% Individual Final Take-Home Exam**
  - Prompt will be provided Two Weeks before end of term and the Exam due on the last day of class.

### **Course Materials**

Readings will be excerpted from autobiographies and biographies and scholarly articles. All the material will be available via the Weldon Library and Brightspace. No book purchases are

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required, but those wishing to purchase the originals these four are recommended (but not required)

Gandhi, *An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth*

Mandela, *Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela*

F Meer, ed. *The South African Gandhi. An Abstract of the Speeches and Writings ...*

Mandela, *Conversations with Myself*

## Course Schedule and Readings

\* Jan. 5, 2026

Week 1

\* Jan. 12, 2026

Week 2

\* Jan. 19, 2026

Week 3

\* Jan. 26, 2026

Week 4 TEAM QUIZ #1

\* Feb. 2, 2026

Week 5

\* Feb. 9, 2026

Week 6 TEAM QUIZ #2

\* Feb. 16, 2026

NO CLASS. Reading Week

\* Feb. 23, 2026

Week 7 TEAM QUIZ #3

\* Mar. 2, 2026

Week 8

\* Mar. 9, 2026

Week 9 TEAM QUIZ #4

\* Mar. 16, 2026

Week 10

\* Mar. 23, 2026

Week 11 TEAM QUIZ #5

\* Mar. 30, 2026

Week 12

\* Apr. 6, 2026

Week 13 TAKE HOME EXAM DUE

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## Additional Statements

### **Accommodation for missed assignments/tests/midterms:**

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a make-up assignment. The make-up assignment will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test. Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Advising. Please see [https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_module\\_information/policies.html](https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html) for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

For this in-person class, make-up tests will be written at one of the Department of History make-up midterms. Dates for the make-ups will be listed on the Department of History website under [Undergraduate](#).

**IMPORTANT:** In the event the University moves to online learning make-up tests will take place online via Brightspace. The date for the make-up may differ from the date listed above.

No other make-up opportunities will be provided unless further academic consideration is granted by Academic Advising in Social Science. Students who fail to write a make-up test in a designated time slot will receive a grade of zero on that assessment. Course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the make-up test slots.

### **Use of Electronic Devices:**

Respect is important, both in and outside the classroom. In the classroom it includes waiting your turn, being respectful of different points of view on different issues and leading with heart and mind. The class including watching films as well as close reading of texts electronically and in print, this means there will be short breaks during the three hours of class time. To that end, except for days when collaborative work requires internet access, please keep your devices in silent (without vibration) mode, or better, in *airplane mode* and store until breaktime or after class.

Use of generative AI tools: The use of generative AI tools like ChatGPT is permitted in this course for activities such as brainstorming and refining your ideas, drafting an outline to organize your thoughts, or checking grammar and style. Any use of such tools should be properly documented and cited. If in doubt, please ask me for clarification, or better yet, check with the Western Writing Center for University-wide policies. Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: [https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_module\\_information/policies.html](https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html) for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.

## Important Academic Dates for Winter 2026

(This is a courtesy announcement, official University policy overrides this.)

### 2026

| Description  | Date             |
|--|------------------|
| Classes resume   | January 5        |
| Last day to add a second-term half course  | January 13       |
| Spring Reading Week  | February 14 - 22 |
| Family Day   | February 16      |
| History make-up midterms   | TBA              |
| Last day to withdraw from a second-term half (0.5) course, or a second-term full (1.0) course resulting in a grade of 'WDN' (withdrawn, without academic penalty). Course withdrawals after this date will appear on a transcript with a grade of 'F.' | March 30         |
| Good Friday  | April 3          |
| Easter Sunday  | April 5          |
| Winter Term classes end  | April 9          |
| Study Days   | April 10 - 11    |
| Final examination period   | April 12 - 30    |



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