

251/MPS/MD201

Semester II
MDC-02: Understanding Gandhi

Course ID -	Understanding Gandhi
Semester II	Maximum Marks: 75
Credits: 3 (Hrs./week:3)	Theory Examination: 50
Time: 2 hours	Internal Assessment: 25

Course Objective -

- To engage critically with Gandhi's ideas on truth, non-violence, swaraj, and satyagraha
- To understand Gandhi's role in India's anti-colonial movement
- To evaluate his relevance in contemporary politics and ethical discourse
- To explore debates around Gandhi's positions on caste, gender, modernity, and nationalism

- Seven Questions will be set in all and students will be required to attempt 4 questions.
- Question No. 1 will be compulsory and will consist of 7 short answer type questions of 2 marks spread over the entire syllabus (2x7=14 marks).
- For the remaining six questions, students will attempt 1 out of 2 questions from each of the three units (12 marks each).

Unit-I Life and Intellectual Influences

- Gandhi's early life and experiences in India and South Africa
- Influence of Tolstoy, Thoreau, Ruskin, Gita, and Jain traditions
- Gandhi's experiment with truth

Unit-II Gandhi's Political Thought and Social Philosophy

- Gandhi's critique of Western civilization and the concept of Swaraj and Trusteeship
- Gandhi on Satyagraha and Civil Disobedience
- Gandhi on religion, Communal harmony, and Influence dialogue

Unit-III Legacy and Contemporary Relevance

- Gandhi's influence on Global movements, Black movements, and Environmentalism
- Gandhi in Contemporary India: Relevance and Contestations

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Suggested readings:

- **M.K. Gandhi, An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth**
- **Dennis Dalton, Mahatma Gandhi: Nonviolent Power in Action**
- **Ramachandra Guha, Gandhi Before India (selected chapters)**
- **Leo Tolstoy, Letter to a Hindu (for influence)**
- **M.K. Gandhi, Hind Swaraj**
- **M.K. Gandhi, The Constructive Programme**
- **Arundhati Roy (ed.), The Doctor and the Saint (debate with Ambedkar)**
- **Sudhir Chandra, Gandhi: A Literary Biography (selected chapters)**
- **Ramachandra Guha, Gandhi: The Years That Changed the World (selected chapters)**
- **Ashis Nandy, The Intimate Enemy (essay: Final Encounter)**
- **Gopal Krishna Gandhi (ed.), Hind Swaraj: A New Translation with Commentary**
- **Ramin Jahanbegloo, The Disobedient Indian (selected interviews)**

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