Resistance: Gandhi, Fanon, and Paradigms of Violence
~ Social Thought and Political Economy 491 ~

University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Spring 2012
Sayres Rudy
Tues 6:30-9
Machmer E-10

First-Day Overview

Description

This course will examine ethical-strategic reasoning applied to resistance struggles, centered on the alleged non-violence of Gandhi and pro-violence of Fanon and finding their traces in later commentaries. We will engage, then, normative approaches by activist intellectuals to material political struggles. Gandhi and Fanon map relationships of "violence" and "peace" over struggles of particular affiliations and universal aspirations, which we will examine via collective discussion and individual writing (≈24pp). The course is designed to facilitate and encourage close, analytical, critical, and comparative reading of text by focusing on practical insights and philosophical commitments in these thinkers' writings and lives, supported by secondary commentaries. The course is an advanced discussion seminar and requires each student to come prepared to explicate and critique the various texts.

Requirements

1. Writing: two critical explications (≈6pp each)  
   Due: 6 Mar 25
   10 Apr 25

2. Presence: contributions to seminar discussion  
   Due: 10 May 30 continuous 20%

Books (available at Amherst Books)

Fanon

Frantz Fanon, Toward the African Revolution (Grove 1994)
__________, The Wretched of the Earth, Philcox, tr. (Grove 2005)
__________, Black Skins, White Masks, Philcox, tr. (Grove 2008)

Gandhi

__________, Mahatma Gandhi: Selected Political Writings (Hackett 1996)
__________, Non-Violent Resistance (Satyagraha) (Dover 2001)

Secondary

Nigel Gibson, ed. Living Fanon: Global Perspectives (Palgrave 2011)

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1 The Social Thought and Political Economy Program (STPEC) is an interdisciplinary undergraduate program in Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The STPEC Program encourages students to engage in a critical examination of society and to develop their own capacities for critical reading, writing, and thinking. For more on the STPEC program, including recent and current course offerings, see http://www.umass.edu/stpec/.

24  
*Introduction*

31  
**Fanon and Gandhi**

*February*

7  
**Master/ Slave**
Susan Buck-Morss, "Hegel and Haiti," *Critical Inquiry*
D. Brion Davis, "Toussaint L'Ouverture and the Phenomenology of Mind"

14  
*No class (possible reschedule)*

21  
**Race**
Fanon, *Toward the African Revolution*, Part II
Fanon, *Black Skins, White Masks*, chs. 1, 5, 7
Robert Young, *Postcolonialism: An Historical Introduction*, chs. 20, 21
Lewis Turner, "On the Difference between the Hegelian and Fanonian Dialect of Lordship and Bondage"
Nigel Gibson, "Dialectical Impasses: Turning the Table on Hegel and the Black"

28  
Cedric Robinson, "The Appropriation of Frantz Fanon"
Sekyi-Otu, "Re-Reading Fanon"
Robert Bernasconi, "Identity and Agency in Frantz Fanon"
Lewis Gordon, et al., "Five Stages of Fanon Studies"
Homi Bhabha, "Interrogating Identity: Frantz Fanon and the Postcolonial Prerogative"
Paget Henry, "Fanon, African and Afro-Caribbean Philosophy"

*March*

6  
**Gender**
Fanon, "Algeria Unveiled," *Dying Colonialism*
Fanon, *Black Skins, White Masks*, chs. 2, 3
Ranjana Khanna, "The Battle of Algiers and the Noubi of the Women of Mont Chenoua: From Third to Fourth Cinema"
Theo Goldberg, "In/Visibility and Super-Vision: Fanon on Race, Veils, and Discourses of Resistance"
Essay #1 due

13 Revolution
Fanon, Wretched of the Earth, chs. 1,
Elia Shohat, “Post-Fanon and the Political: A Situational Diagnosis,” Taboo
Memories: Diasporic Voices (Duke 2006)
Richard Pithouse, “That The Tool Never Possess The Man: Taking Fanon’s
Humanism Seriously”
Lewis Turner, “Fanon’s Tragic Revolutionary Violence”

20-1 Spring break

27 Fanon, Wretched of the Earth, chs. 2, 5
Fanon, Toward the African Revolution, Part IV
Judith Butler, “Violence, Nonviolence: Sartre on Fanon”

April

3 Nigel Gibson, ed., Living Fanon: Global Perspectives, selections
Neil Lazarus, “Disavowing Decolonization: Fanon, Nationalism, and the Problematic
of Representation in Current Theories of Colonial Discourse,” Research in
African Literatures, 24: 4 (Win 1993)

10 Gandhi, Autobiography, selections
Robert Young, Postcolonialism, chs. 22, 23

Essay #2 due

17 Gandhi, Selected Political Writings, entire
Gandhi, All Men Are Brothers, selections
George Orwell, “Reflections On Gandhi”

24 Gandhi, Non-Violent Resistance, selections
Shahid Amin, “Gandhi and Mahatma: Gorakhpur District, Eastern UP, 1921-2”
Judith Butler, “Violence, Mourning, Politics”

25 Dipesh Chakrabarty, “Postcoloniality and the Artifice of History: Who Speaks for
‘Indian Past’s?” Representations, #37 (Win 1992)
Partha Chatterjee, “The Moment of Manoeuvre: Gandhi and the Critique of Civil
Society”

Kenneth Rivett, “The Economic Thought of Mahatma Gandhi,” British Journal of
Sociology, 10:1 (1959)
Rudolf C. Heredia, “Interpreting Gandhi’s Hind Swaraj,” Economic and Political
(2006)
May

1  Mark Juergensmeyer, "Gandhi vs. terrorism"
   Gail Bresbey, "Fanon on the Role of Violence in Liberation: Comparison with Gandhi and Mandela"
   Michael Neumann, on Terrorism and non-Violence
   Michel Foucault, "Iran: World without Spirit"
   Ward Churchill, "Pacifism as Pathology"

10  Final Paper due

15  Grades Due (seniors)