

PHIL 410/810: POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR ESSAY 2

DUE DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2019

- (1) What are the essential principles of *satyagraha*. Give examples in the modern context of how *satyagraha* was used outside of the Gandhian struggle for Indian independence.
- (2) Gandhi emphasized that “worthy ends deserve worthy means”. How does this fit into his philosophy of *satyagraha*?
- (3) How was Martin Luther King Jr. influenced by Mahatma Gandhi and how did he implement *satyagraha* in the civil rights movement? Was it successful or not? Discuss in detail.
- (4) How relevant is Gandhi’s philosophy and approach in the 21st century? Will his methods work today to deal with the conflicts in the modern world or do they have to be modified? Discuss in detail giving valid arguments to support your claims.
- (5) What role did the Bhagavad Gita play in shaping Gandhi’s philosophy? What lessons did he draw from this ancient text and in what way did he understand its core message?
- (6) Gandhi and Tagore differed on key aspects during the Indian independence struggle. What were these aspects and how did each one see his position on the matter?
- (7) What role did writing play in the evolution of Gandhi’s philosophy of *satyagraha*? His numerous weekly newspapers both in South Africa and in India had a wide circulation. Discuss the format of the writing and how this medium was used in the movement.
- (8) What is the essential philosophy of Krishnamurti? How did his early childhood shape his thinking and final message? Discuss in detail.
- (9) Bertrand Russell called Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan a “philosopher king” when he became the President of India. Is this title justified? Was Radhakrishnan too much of an intellectual to have any influence in the post-colonial India? Were his writings too remote from the common man?
- (10) In the Einstein-Tagore conversation, what are the world views presented? How do they compare and how do they differ? Discuss in detail relating it to the importance of philosophy in the modern context. In the Tagore-Wells conversation, how do each of these individuals approach the role of education in the course of human evolution? How do they agree and how do they differ? Discuss in detail.