In 1923, Mohandas K. Gandhi published Freedom’s Battle, a collection of his political writings that had first appeared in the journal Young India during the preceding decade. A staunch critic of British imperialism and a firm believer in the power of nonviolence, Gandhi prophesied that by the end of the 20th century, all the peoples of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East would secure their freedom from Western control and achieve national self-determination. This course will evaluate the accuracy of Gandhi’s prophecy, with special emphasis on means and ends: which approach—civil disobedience and moral suasion OR civil war and political violence—was more successful? Did the tactics adopted by the imperial powers affect the struggle for self-determination? Using historical and contemporary case studies of self-determination movements, several themes will be explored, including the role of great powers (both colonial and non-colonial powers), and the emergence and evolution of the norm of self-determination (and the link to self-determination/nationalist liberation movements and the creation of new states from former colonies). We will also explore the link between nationalist liberation movements and women’s liberation movements, related to the intersectionality of class, race, sex, ethnicity, religion, and gender.

**Prerequisites:** N/A

**Program of Liberal Studies (PLS) Designation:** GP

**Anticipated Terms Offered:** N/A