Gandhi Viewing Questions

On April 14th, class discussion will focus on the academy-award winning film Gandhi. In advance of this discussion, you should view Gandhi and answer the following questions about it, which you will turn in. The film, which is on two videocassettes, is on reserve in the library (call numbers 84340-1) and is available on DVD in major video stores. Make sure you also read Ferguson, Empire, 265-302 and Orwell, The Road to Wigan Pier.

1. What happens to Gandhi on the train in South Africa?

2. How many sons does Gandhi have?

3. According to the Daily Mail, Gandhi’s burning of passes was the most significant act in colonial affairs since what?

4. At the end of the scene in the Imperial Theater in Johannesburg, during which Gandhi speaks to an audience of Indians who are angry about the South African’s government’s proposal to require all Indians to register, be finger-printed, and carry identification cards, he leads those in attendance in the singing of what song?

5. What does “Bapu” mean?

6. What happens at the temple in Amritsar?

7. In the meeting with the viceroy and other high-ranking British officials in India, Gandhi States that “100,000 Englishmen simply cannot control 350 million Indians if those Indians” do what?

8. When Gandhi talks to the journalist about the Salt March, what does he say is the purpose of civil disobedience?

9. How does the British government respond to the Salt March and to the illegal trade in salt?

10. What happens to Gandhi’s wife after she dies?

11. What are Jinnah’s concerns at India’s moment of independence?

12. According to Gandhi, “an eye for an eye” does what?

13. How does Gandhi respond to the violence that follows independence?
Reading Questions: *The Road to Wigan Pier* (Orwell)

1. What are the differences, according to Orwell, between North and South? How do these compare with Gaskell?

2. What does Orwell mean when he says, “We have nothing to lose but our aitches”?

3. What are the links between “empire” and “class”?

4. According to Orwell, what class does he belong to – and what does this mean?

5. Why does Orwell begin Part II with an intellectual biography?