

Non Violence and Social Change

Laura Jackson
Spring 1997

Course Description

In this course students will look at the lives and the writings of individuals who have been important in creating, leading and redefining the history of non violent social change. Documentary films will provide experience of the larger historical contexts in which these individuals played a key role. Whether this desired social change is cultural, psychological, or political, certain elements and dynamics remain similar. Students will look for the "common" language, vision, and commitment among these different movements, and work towards some better understanding of the power of choice and action in working for change without engaging in violence.

Course Reading

The Power of the People - Active Nonviolence in the United States edited by Robert Cooney & Helen Michalowski

The Politics of NonViolent Action by Gene Sharp

1. Power and Struggle
2. The Methods of Non Violent Action
3. The Dynamics of Non Violent Action

Why We Can't Wait by Martin Luther King, Jr.

We Are All Part of One Another by Barbara Deming

Love in Action by Thich Nhat Hahn

A Dream Compels Us - Stories of Salvadoran Women

What is Found There by Adrienne Rich

The Drama of the Gifted Child by Alice Miller

Witness to War by Charlie Clements

God Dies By The Nile by Nawaal El Sadawi

The Platform For Action - the final paper of commitment from the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China .

8 Steps to Conflict Resolution / and Training Manual on Mediation

Speak Truth To Power - A Ouaker Search for an Alternative to Violence

Films

Eyes on the Prize

War Games

Bill Moyers Conference on Evil

El Salvador: Portraits in a Revolution
After Our War. How Will Love Speak?
The Quakers: that of god in everyone
Witness to War
Ghandi
Beyond Rangoon
Bill Moyers Documentary on Healing

Course Schedule

Peace Studies: *Nonviolence and Social*

1. Framework for the course. Discussion of the personal, cultural, and political aspects of social change. Introduction to the individuals whose lives and writings we will be studying and an overview of the shape and direction of the semester. Importance of both private struggles and public actions. method of grading.

Students will view Oxfam's documentary from southern Bangladesh "Community." Readings: "We Are All Part of One Another", by Barbara Deming; excerpts from *I, Rigoberta Manchu* "On Creativity" from *Writing For Your Life* and

bell hooks's introduction to *Longing*. In class we will view Maya Angelou's presentation on Evil from the Bill Moyers' Program.

2. The Revolution in El Salvador. Readings: *One Day of Life* by Manlio Argueta *the El Mozote Massacre* by Mark Danner; *A Dream Compels us* Stories of Salvadoran Women; Chapter 1 from *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* by Paulo Friere; "On Confronting One's Own Oppression" by Barbara Deming; Viewing: *El Salvador, Portraits in A Revolution*; *Maria's Story*.

3. The U.S. Civil Rights Movement. Readings: *Why We Can't Wait*, by Martin Luther King, Jr.; *Letter From the Birmingham Jail* by Martin Luther King, jr.; "In the Birmingham Jail," by Barbara Deming; "On Story" from *Writing For Your Life*. Viewing: Excerpts from *Eyes on the Prize* and from *Gandhi*

4. Buddhist Stories of Nonviolence. Readings: *Love in Action* by Thich Nhat Hahn; *Learning True Love* by Chan Khong. Viewing: *Beyond Rangoon*; *Witness to War*, "After Our War How Will Love Speak?"; *War Games*

5. Introduction to Mediation and Conflict Resolution. Readings: *The 8 Essential Steps to Conflict Resolution*, by Dudley Weeks; Mediation Training manual; *Us and Them- A History of Intolerance in America*, Southern Poverty Law Center; "On The Necessity of Liberating Minds" by Barbara Deming; "The Larger Story - Archetypes, Fairy Tales and Myths" from *Writing For Your Life*; Information from The Carter Center. Guests: members of the South African Conflict Resolution Training Team.

6. Inner and Outer Journeys. Readings: "Writing as a Spiritual Practice" from *Writing For Your Life*; *What is Found There* - notebooks on Poetry and Politics and "on lies, Secrets, and Silences" by Adrienne Rich; *The Drama of the Gifted Child* and "Breaking Down the Wall of Silence" by Alice Miller. Viewing: *On Healing with Bill Moyers*; *The Quakers: that of god in every one*.

7. The Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China. Readings: *the Platform for Action* ; *Women in Exile* by Mahnaz Afkhami; *Female Genital Mutilation- A Call For Global Action* by Nahid Toubia; *The Global Kitchen- The Case For Governments Measuring and Valuing Unwaged Work*, edited by Selma

James. Viewing: audio tape interview with Nahid Toubia from Fresh Air with Terry Gross; Beyond Beijing: Women and Economic Justice; Child Prostitution in Nepal and India.

8. Empty The Shelters. The Documentary Produced by Swarthmore Students, Johanna Peters-Burton and Dhruvi Kakkad. Presentation and Discussion by Dhruvi and Johanna.

9. Individual projects and presentations.