

Nonviolence in Theory and Practice

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Course Description

This seminar examines the theory and practice of nonviolent action and related movements for social and political change. Utilizing both case histories and theoretical works, we will explore both secular and religious foundations of pacifism as well as the ethical and utilitarian basis of nonviolent movements supporting peace, civil rights, the environment, women's rights and democracy in the United States and elsewhere in the world.

The objectives of the course are to engage in a thorough review and critique of the major theoretical and empirical approaches to nonviolence and nonviolent action, to learn about a broad sampling of case histories where nonviolent action has been employed as a means of popular struggle, and to undertake original research of nonviolent action as a phenomenon in political and social conflict.

The format of the seminar will be largely discussion. Students will be responsible for the readings by the week assigned and are expected to participate fully. Attendance is required. Please check in with the instructor regarding any absences or any problems you may have in fully participating in class. Students who feel they may have problems participating in discussions to a degree commensurate with their work and understanding of the material are welcomed to submit a short paper (not more than a page or so) summarizing their understanding of the most interesting and salient points in the readings for that week; these will be due at the beginning of class. Similarly, those of you for whom meeting any of the class requirements may be particularly challenging due to disabilities, lack of fluency in English, employment obligations or other reasons are encouraged to discuss these issues with the instructor early in the semester.

There will be no final exam, but there will be a preliminary examination in class on November 20 as a comprehensive review of the semester's readings.

In addition, each student is required to write a research paper, of at least 12 pages, due at 11:00 am. on December 14. The topic must be discussed and approved by the instructor by November 6. The final two weeks of class will consist of presentations by students of their paper research in progress. A special third class will take place during that period as a make-up for the class missed by the Labor Day holiday. On November 13, students will sign up for one slot as presenter and one slot as respondent to another student's presentation. Those signed up for a presentation on a particular afternoon are required to hand in a draft of the paper to the instructor and to the student respondent by noon on the Friday prior to class.

Each student is encouraged to meet with the instructor one-on-one at least twice during the semester to discuss progress in the class or any other connects.

Course Reading

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore. If financial constraints make the purchase of all of the required books problematic, please see the instructor.

Required:

Joan Bondurant, *Conquest of Violence: The Gandhian Philosophy of Conflict*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1971

Hugo Bedau, ed. *Civil Disobedience: Theory and Practice*, New York: MacMillan, 1969
 Robert Cooney and Helen Michalowski, *The Power of the People: Active Nonviolence in the United States*, Philadelphia: New Society Publishers, 1987
 George Lakey, *Powerful Peacemaking: A Strategy for a Living Revolution*, Philadelphia: New Society Publishers, 1987
 Adam Roberts, *Civil Resistance in the East European and Soviet Revolutions*, Cambridge: Albert Einstein Institution, 1991
 Gene Sharp, *Politics of Nonviolent Action*, Boston: Porter Sargent, 1971
 Vol. 1: Power and Struggle ;
 Vol. 111: The Dynamics of Nonviolent Action
 Gene Sharp, *Civilian-Based Defense: A Post-Military Weapons System*, Princeton University Press, 1991

Optional:
 Gene Sharp, *Politics of Nonviolent Action, Vol. 11: The Methods of Nonviolent Action*, Boston: Porter Sargent, 1971
 Robert Holmes, ed. *Nonviolence in Theory and Practice*, Belmont: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1990

Course Schedule

Aug. 28: Introduction

Sept. 11: The Theory and Dynamics of Nonviolent Action

Gene Sharp, *Politics of Nonviolent Action*, entire (Volume II, optional)

Sept. 18: The Spiritual Roots of Nonviolence and the Pacifist Tradition

Scou Kennedy and Patrick Lacefield, "An Introduction to Nonviolence." pp. 5-12 in Therese de Connick, *Essays on Nonviolence* [on reserve]
 William Barclay, "Thou shalt Not Kill," *Barclay on Peace*, pp. 5-26 [on reserve]
 George Hunzinger, "A Short Catechism for Peace" [on reserve]
 Joseph J. Fahey, "Peace, War and Christian Conscience," entire [on reserve]
 Joseph Cardinal Bearnardin, *A Consistent Ethic of Life*, pp. 5-9 [on reserve]
 Asghar Ali Engineer, "Sources of Nonviolence in Islam," *Gandhi Marj*, Vol. XIV, #1, April-June 1992 [on reserve]
 Robert Holmes, *Nonviolence in Theory and Practice*, pp. 8-27, 45-50, 113-140 [on reserve]

Sept 25: Gandhian Nonviolence

Joan Bondurant, *Conquest of Violence*, entire

Oct. 2: Feminism and Nonviolence

Robert Cooney & Helen Michalowski, *Power of the People*, pp. 56-61, 213-219
 Holmes, pp. 82-89 [on reserve]
 Pam McAllister, *Reweaving The Web of Life: Feminism and Nonviolence*, pp. i-viii, 5, 15, 2041, 195-199, 209-219, 231-240, 254-261, 326-335, 347-351, 376-394 [on reserve]

Oct. 9: War Resistance

Bob Seeley, "Three Hundred Years: The Struggle for Conscience in America" [on reserve]
 Donald Benedict and other, "Why We Refuse to Register," in Staughton Lynd & Alice Lynd, eds., *Nonviolence in America*, pp. 161-163 [on reserve]
 Dale Noyd, "Particular War Objector," in Alice Lynd, ed. *We Won't Go*, pp. 257-266 [on reserve]
 Cooney & Michalowski, pp. 38-55, 74-107, 124-149, 182-209, 228-245
 Hugo Adam Bedau, *Civil Disobedience: Theory and Practice*, pp. 119-212
 Richard Taylor, "Blockading for Bangladesh," *The Progressive*, Feb.1971 [on reserve]
 Irene Litherland, "A History of East Bay Sanctuary Covenant," in Lynd, *Nonviolence in America*, pp. 450-457 [on reserve]
 David Cartwright, "Assessing Peace Movement Effectiveness in the 1980s," *Peace and Change*, January

1991 [on reserve]

Stephen Zunes, "The Peace Movement is Alive and Kicking," *Fellowship*, January 1992 [on reserve]

Oct. 16: Other Nonviolent Movements in U.S. History

Staughton Lynd, "Introduction," in *Nonviolence in America*, pp. xi-xlvi [on reserve]

Bedau, pp. 15-40

Joel Seidman, "Sit-Down," in Lynd, ed. *Nonviolence in America*, pp. 141-155 [on reserve]

Cooney & Michalowski, pp. 9-11, 14-37, 62-73, 176-181, 210-212, 220-227

Harvey Wasserman, *Energy Wars: Reports from the Front*, pp. 49-55, 69-77 [on reserve]

Bill Dedman, "Both Sides from the Inside," *Mother Jones*, Nov./Dec. 1993 [on reserve]

Oct. 23: Civil Rights Struggle

Cooney & Michalowski, pp. 150-175

Bedau, pp. 119-212

April Carter, "From Civil Rights to Black Power," from *Direct Action in Liberal Democracy*, pp. 67-74 [on reserve]

Julius Lester, "The Angry Children of Malcolm X," from Meier, Rudwick, and Broderick, eds., *Black Protest Thought in the Twentieth Century* [on reserve]

Oct. 30: Strategic Nonviolence

Peter Ackerman & Christopher Kruegler, *Strategic Nonviolence Conflict*, ch. 2 [on reserve]

George Lakey, "Why Training for Nonviolent Action?", *International Journal of Nonviolence*, Vol. II, #1 [on reserve]

Bill Moyer, "The Practical Strategist," entire [handout]

Nov. 6: Nonviolent Action Around the World

(paper topics due)

Holmes, pp. 153-163, 193-206 [on reserve]

Adam Roberts, *Civil Resistance in the East European and Soviet Revolutions*, entire

Stephen Zunes, "Unarmed Insurrections Against Authoritarian Government in the Third World: A New Kind of Revolution," *Third World Quarterly*, Fall 1994 [on reserve]

Gene Sharp & Bruce Jenkins, "Nonviolent Struggle in China An Eyewitness Account," *Nonviolent Sanctions*, Vol. I, #2, Fall 1989 [on reserve]

Lynne Shivers, "Inside the Iranian Revolution," from David Albert, ed., *Tell the American People: Portraits of the Iranian Revolution* [on reserve]

Philip McManus & Gerald Schlabach, *Relentless Persistence: Nonviolent Action in Latin America*, pp. 1-12, 48-62, 79-99 [on reserve]

Souad Dajani, "Towards the Foundation of a Strategy of Nonviolent Civilian Resistance: The Occupied Palestinian Territories as a Case Study," *International Journal of Nonviolence*, Sept. 1993 [on reserve]

Nov. 13: Civilian-Based Defense and Nonviolent Intervention

(sign-ups Gene Sharp, *Civilian-Based Defense: A Post-Military Weapons System*, entire for Piet Dijkstra, "Nonviolence in Practice," *Gandhi Marj*, Vol. XIV, #1, April-June 1992 presentations) [on reserve]

Michael Nagler, "Peacemaking Through Nonviolence" [on reserve]

David McReynolds, "Pacifism in Time of War" [on reserve]

Nov. 20: Nonviolent Revolution

(Prelim) Joseph J. Fahey, "Conflict Creation," in *Peace Review*, Vol. V, #4, Winter 1993 [on reserve]

Cooney & Michalowski, pp. 108-123

George Lakey, *Powerful Peacemaking*, entire

Nov. 27 Student Presentations

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Dec. 4 Student Presentations

Dec. 14 Term papers due