

# Changing the World: Perspectives on Nonviolent Movements

Wednesdays, 7:30 PM  
King TBA  
1 credit

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This course aims to cover a brief history of non-violence as a means of social change by focusing on several specific non-violent movements. It is structured around the six-part PBS film *A Force More Powerful* and another PBS documentary, *Bringing Down a Dictator*, as well as related discussions led by guest faculty members with expertise in the field. Along with regularly attending class, students will be responsible for writing two one-page response papers to any two films/discussions of their choice and choosing one movement on which to do an outside reading, summarized in another one-page piece. This course, in addition to providing an avenue for students to cohesively study nonviolent movements, also acts as a model for how an Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies course might be structured in the college's future academic offerings.

## **Week One (September 13): Introduction to the Course**

Check-ins and introductions. What's your interest in peace and conflict studies? Have you studied nonviolent movements before? What are some common ideas or misconceptions about nonviolence? For next class, please read Chapter 4, entitled "Nonviolence," from David P. Barash's *Approaches to Peace: A Reader in Peace Studies* (to be provided). This reading is subject to change.

## **Week Two (September 20): Otpor and Milosevic**

We will watch the PBS film *Bringing Down a Dictator*, which lasts approximately an hour, followed by a short discussion of some of their methods, how it worked, and why it worked.

## **Week Three (September 27): Religious Perspectives on Violence/Nonviolence**

Professor Joyce McClure of the Religion Department is our invited guest for this week; she will guest-teach a class introducing students to basic religious perspectives on nonviolence and how these factor into issues of war and peace.

## **Week Four (October 4): Desegregation in Nashville**

We will watch the first of six parts of *A Force More Powerful*, the PBS documentary, which focuses on desegregation in Nashville, Tennessee. Professor Pam Brooks is invited as our guest professor to lead discussion following the film.

## **Week Five (October 11): Mohandas Gandhi**

We will watch the second of six parts of *A Force More Powerful*, which focuses on Mohandas Gandhi and his work with nonviolent resistance. Professor Michael Fisher is invited as our guest professor to lead discussion following the film.

## **Week Six (October 18): Apartheid in South Africa**

We will watch the third of six parts of *A Force More Powerful*, which focuses on the nonviolent campaign against apartheid in South Africa. Professor Yakubu Saaka is invited as our guest professor to lead discussion following the film.

## **Week Seven (November 1): Resistance to Nazis in Denmark**

We will watch the fourth of six parts of *A Force More Powerful*, which focuses on Denmark's resistance to Nazis during World War II. Professor Shulamit Magnus is invited as our guest professor to lead discussion following the film.

**Week Eight (November 8): Solidarity in Poland**

We will watch the fifth of six parts of *A Force More Powerful*, which focuses on the rise of Solidarity in Poland. Professor Annemarie Sammartino is invited as our guest professor to lead discussion following the film.

**Week Nine (November 15): Democracy in Chile**

We will watch the final part of *A Force More Powerful*, which focuses on opposition to Pinochet in Chile. Professor Steve Volk is invited as our guest professor to lead discussion following the film and talk about his own experiences, to the extent that he wishes.

**Week Ten (November 29): Arms Control**

Professor Ben Schiff of the Politics Department is invited to guest-teach this class on some of the issues surrounding arms control, the defense against or pursuit of war, and/or other topics on international politics surrounding human rights and managing conflict.

**Week Eleven (December 6): Nonviolent Approaches to Conflict**

Professor Kristina Mani is invited to discuss overall issues of nonviolent approaches to conflict and to reflect upon some of the examples seen in the films. For next class, read part of Chapter 6, entitled "Peace Movements, Transformation, and the Future" from David P. Barash's *Approaches to Peace: A Reader in Peace Studies* (to be provided) or Colman McCarthy's preface to his book *I'd Rather Teach Peace*. This reading is subject to change or the exact sections will be decided.

**Week Twelve (December 13): Closing**

In closing, we will discuss the trend of nonviolence and how it shaped these points in history, what can be learned from them and applied to the future. Is it important to study nonviolent movements along with violent ones? Did your perspective change from the beginning of the course?

\* - In the class periods in which guest lecturers are speaking without a film, topics of discussion are subject to change depending on their preferences.