

Syllabus

Exploring Peace and Nonviolence: The Third Option

Fall 2007
Wednesdays, 7:30-9:00 PM
Location TBA
1 credit

Tom Lock
tomandanita@oberlin.net
Anna Ernst
anna.ernst@oberlin.edu

Kill or be killed. Submit to oppression or violently rebel. Society tells us that there are only two choices. This class will explore different aspects of a third option – peace through nonviolent action – through short selected readings and class discussions. All reading material will be provided and community members are welcome. Students will be expected to write three one-page papers, due in classes 2, 7, and 12, and do about one hour of reading to prepare for each class. This course, in addition to providing an avenue for students to cohesively study peace and nonviolence, also acts as a possible model for how a future official Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies course might be structured.

Class 1 – Sep. 12th – Introduction:

Four Basic Positions on Violence, If We Listen Well, Nonviolence and Moral Courage, At the Core of Nonviolence, and Axioms of Nonviolence. How do you see the four basic positions acted out in the world today?

Class 2 – Sep. 19th – Leo Tolstoy:

The Kingdom of God is Within You, Patriotism or Peace, Advice to a Draftee, War and Peace, On Military Service. What were Tolstoy's views on the government, the church, and the military?

Class 3 – Sep. 26th – 19th Century Peace Movements*:

A Solemn Review of the Custom of War, Constitution of the Oberlin Non-Resistance Society, Causes of War, Nonresistance Asserted, Mistakes about Peace. Are these views still relevant today?

Class 4 – Oct. 3rd – Mohandas Gandhi*:

Doctrine of the Sword, My Faith in Nonviolence, Gandhi and his Myths, Family Satyagraha, Ahimsa, The Great Trial. How did Gandhi view nonviolence in relation to strength and weakness?

Class 5 – Oct. 10th – Pacifism in the Reformation*:

On Spiritual Warfare, The Complaint of Peace, Declaration Presented to King Charles II, The Law of War and Peace. How did these reformers set the stage for the people we have already discussed?

Class 6 – Oct. 24th – Abdul Ghaffar Khan*:

Nonviolent Soldier of Islam, The Apostle of Nonviolence, My Life and Struggle, Thrown to the Wolves, Pathan Unarmed: Opposition & Memory in the North West Frontier. Was Ghaffar Khan's understanding and interpretation of Islam mainstream or unusual?

Class 7 – Oct. 31st – Criminal Justice and Capital Punishment*:

Resist Not Evil, Choosing Mercy, The World’s Only True/False Quiz on Legalized Killing, Joe Giarratano Waits for Justice, They Tried to Kill Shabaka. Does our criminal justice system promote peace or exacerbate violence?

Class 8 – Nov. 7th – Dorothy Day*:

Love is the Measure, Poverty and Precarity, The Money is not Ours, Undeclared War to Declared War, Reflections in Jail. How important is alleviating poverty to the cause of peace and nonviolence?

Class 9 – Nov. 14th – Nonviolence in the Face of War*:

The Town that Defied the Holocaust, Lest Innocent Blood be Shed, Nonviolent Weapons of the Spirit, The Danish Resistance, The Reich Defied. What kinds of nonviolent action are effective and ineffective in various violent situations?

Class 10 – Nov. 28th – Martin Luther King*:

Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam, Love Your Enemies, Pilgrimage to Nonviolence, King and Pacifism – The Other Dimension. How important and effective was Dr. King’s nonviolent stand to the American civil rights movement?

Class 11 – Dec. 5th – Nonviolent Strategy*:

Nonviolent Strategies, Nonviolence as Strategy and Commitment, Bringing Down a Dictator, The Technique of Nonviolent Action, Look to the Future – Learn from the Past. What historical examples do we have in which nonviolent strategy was well and poorly done?

Class 12 – Dec. 12th – The U.S. Department of Peace*:

House Bill 808, Benjamin Rush’s Peace Office, Peace Department Proposal Rattles Small Town, Answering Questions About a US Department of Peace. Could a department of peace make a difference in today’s society and government?

* Classes 3 through 12 will each consist of readings and discussion on one of the following topics, which will be chosen by the class, and other topics may be added per student requests.

Martin Luther King	Nonviolent Political Movements
Mohandas Gandhi	Nonviolence in the Face of War
Abdul Ghaffar Khan	The Peace Corps
Dorothy Day	Women’s Issues
Colman McCarthy	Civil Disobedience
Thomas Merton	Criminal Justice and Capital Punishment
Leo Tolstoy	Nonviolent Strategy
Philip & Daniel Berrigan	Vietnam
Joan Baez	Racism
Desiderius Erasmus	Utopian Societies
Cindy Sheehan	The Nobel Peace Prize
Adin Ballou	The Traditional Peace Churches
George Fox	19 th Century Peace Movements
Mother Theresa	The U.S. Department of Peace
Albert Einstein	The Rainbow Family
Jeannette Rankin	Nonviolence in Extraordinary Situations
Dennis Kucinich	Pacifism in the Reformation
Albert Schweitzer	Violence Against Animals

Selected readings may be taken from, but are not limited to, the following books, essays, and documents. Most can be found in *Solutions to Violence* and *Strength Through Peace*, both of which are available through the Center for Teaching Peace in Washington D.C.

- A Force More Powerful by Peter Ackerman and Peter York
 A Pacifist Uncovered by Amitabh Pal
 A Pause from Violence by Colman McCarthy
 A Question of Adhesion by Joan Baez
 A Sketch of War: what it is, and what it does - an anonymous essay
 A Solemn Review of the Custom of War by Noah Worcester
 A Vegetarian Sourcebook by Keith Akers
 A Vigil for Life While We Celebrate Death by Colman McCarthy
 A War To Save the Jews by Howard Zinn
 A Warrior Turns Pacifist by Howard Zinn
 Abolish Capital Punishment by Kerry Kennedy Cuomo.
 Advice to a Draftee by Leo Tolstoy
 Ahimsa by Eknath Easwaran
 Albert Einstein on Pacifism
 All War Anti-Christian - pamphlets by various authors
 Am I Blue by Alice Walker
 An American Hero of 1941 by Colman McCarthy
 An Inquiry into the Accordancy of War with the Principles of Christianity by Jonathan Dymond
 Animals, My Brethren by Edgar Kuper-Koberwitz
 Another Attorney for Life by Michael Mello
 Answering the Call by Colman McCarthy
 Arbitration as a Substitute for War - an anonymous essay
 At the Core of Nonviolence by Michael Nagler
 Axioms of Nonviolence by Lanzo del Vasto
 Backstage with Joan Baez by Colman McCarthy
 Badshah Khan, Nonviolent Soldier of Islam by Eknath Easwaran
 Building Confidence at Prairie Creek by Colman McCarthy
 Cause of Peace - an anonymous essay
 Causes of War by Jonathan Dymond
 Charles Grassley and the Pentagon Hogs by Colman McCarthy
 Chief Evil of War by William E. Channing
 Choose Mercy by Antoinette Bosco
 Christian Non-Resistance in all its Important Bearings by Adin Ballou
 Christian Non-Resistance in relation to Human Governments by Adin Ballou
 Christianity and Patriotism by Leo Tolstoy
 Claims of Peace on all Christians - an anonymous essay
 Conflict, Equality and Marriage by Richard Driscoll
 Constitution of the Oberlin Nonresistance Society
 Constitution of the Oberlin Peace League
 Constitution of the Oberlin Peace Society of 1843
 Constitution of the Oberlin Peace Society of 1930
 Creating a Peace Studies Class by Colman McCarthy
 Criminality of War by Howard Malcom
 Daniel Berrigan and a Pennsylvania Judge by Colman McCarthy
 Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam by Martin Luther King, Jr.
 Declaration presented to King Charles II by George Fox and others
 Diet for a New America by John Robbins
 Diet for a Small Planet by Frances Moore Lappé
 Do Small Things In a Great Way by Colman McCarthy
 Doctrine of the Sword by Mohandas Gandhi
 Dorothy Day by Colman McCarthy
 Economic Conversion by Seymor Mellman
 Education and Success by Thomas Merton
 Everyday Love by Sidney J. Harris
 Extinction of War by Josiah Quincy
 Family Satyagraha by Eknath Easwaran
 Feminism, Peace and Power by Mary Roodkowsky
 Four Aspects of War - an anonymous essay
 From Prisoner To Peacemaker by Carl Upchurch
 Gandhi and His Myths by Mark Shepard
 Gandhi Goes to England by Mildred Fahrini
 Gandhi in the Postmodern Age by Sanford Krolick and Betty Cannon
 Gandhi's Journey by Colman McCarthy
 Gen. Patton Said "Americans Love War" by Donald Kaul
 How Language Distances Us From Suffering by Carol J. Adams
 How to Love Our Children by James and Kathleen McGinnis
 Human Nature Isn't Inherently Violent by Alfie Kohn
 If We Listen Well by Edward Guinan
 I'll Have a Grain-Consuming Animal Unit by Jeremy Rifkin
 Inefficacy of War by William Jay
 Insensibility to the Evils of War by W. E. Channing
 Interview on Animal Rights by Paul Shapiro
 Joe Giarratano Waits For Justice by Colman McCarthy
 Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan: the apostle of nonviolence by N Radhakrishnan
 King and Pacifism: The Other Dimension by Colman McCarthy
 Law, Religion, and Animals by Colman McCarthy
 Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed by Philip Halle
 Letter to a Corporal by Leo Tolstoy
 Letter to Ernesto Cardenal: Guns Don't Work by Daniel Berrigan
 Look to the Future, The Learn from the Past by Dudley Weeks
 Love by Mohandas Gandhi
 Love Is the Measure by Dorothy Day
 Loving Your Enemies by Martin Luther King, Jr.
 Marie Deans, Truth-teller by Ian Gray and Moira Stanley
 Martin Luther King, Jr. by Charles De Benedetti
 Men, Women and The Art of Friendship by Colman McCarthy
 Message To Poets by Thomas Merton
 Military Preparations - an anonymous essay
 Ministering to the Condemned by Joseph Ingle
 Mistakes about Peace - an anonymous essay
 Moral Results of War by Jonathan Dymond
 More Than a Reasonable Doubt by Colman McCarthy
 My Faith in Nonviolence by Mohandas Gandhi
 My life and struggle by Abdul Ghaffar Khan
 My Parents Worst Nightmare by Victoria Paal
 Napoleon by Leo Tolstoy
 Narrowing the Battlefield by Carol Ascher
 Non-Resistance Asserted by Daniel Musser
 Nonviolence and Moral Courage, by Aldous Huxley
 Nonviolence as Strategy and Commitment by Robert Seeley
 Nonviolent Civilian Defense by Liane Ellison Norman
 Nonviolent Response To Assault by Gerard Vanderhaar
 Nonviolent Strategies by Hildegard Goss-Mayr
 Nonviolent Weapons of the Spirit by Colman McCarthy
 Not a Just War, Just a War by Erwin Knoll
 On Military Service by Leo Tolstoy
 On Non-Resistance by Leo Tolstoy
 On Spiritual Warfare by Peter Chelcický
 On the Duty of Civil Disobedience by Henry David Thoreau
 On the Streets of Black Washington DC by David Nicholson
 Patriarchy: A State of War by Barbara Hope
 Patriotism and Government by Leo Tolstoy
 Patriotism or Peace by Leo Tolstoy
 Peace and Government by George C. Beckwith
 Peace by Thomas Chalmers
 Peace by Thomas Grimke
 Peace Education Beyond the Classroom by Linda Lantieri
 Peace of Mind, the Mind of Peace by the Dalai Lama
 Peace Practicable - an anonymous essay
 Persuading By Example by Chu Hui Cho
 Pilgrimage to Nonviolence by Martin Luther King, Jr.
 Plain Sketches of War by R. P. Stebbins
 Poverty and Precarity by Dorothy Day
 Pray for Peace but Pay for War by Maurice F. McCrackin

Proud To Be a Soldier by Midshipman Tara Lee
 Proud To Know a Soldier by Colman McCarthy
 Provide Love by Bobby Muller
 Rape Is All Too Thinkable for Quite the Normal Sort of Man by Neal King and Martha McCaughey
 Rediscovering Thomas Merton by Colman McCarthy
 Reflections in Jail by Dorothy Day
 Reflective Listening by Neil Katz and John W. Lawyer
 Remembering Paul by George Swiers
 Resist Not Evil by Clarence Darrow
 Resolving Conflicts Nonviolently by Colman McCarthy
 Respect for Animals by Isaac Bashevis Singer
 Reverence For Life by Albert Schweitzer
 Rights of Self-Defense - an anonymous essay
 Safety of Pacific Principles - an anonymous essay
 Sargent Shriver, Enduring Peacemaker by Colman McCarthy
 Satchel Paige Is My Main Model by Roger Wilkins
 Saving Lt. Kerrey by Colman McCarthy
 Selected Articles on Nonresistance by Mary Prescott Parsons
 Sensing by Dudley Weeks
 Some Men Are More Perfect Than Others by Merle Shain
 Students Astutely Aware by Colman McCarthy
 Substitutes for War - an anonymous essay
 Teaching Reference for Life by Albert Schweitzer
 Terrorists for Animal Rights by Colman McCarthy
 The Animal Rights Position by Tom Regan
 The Art of Loving by Erich Fromm
 The Bible Against War by (Oberlin student/resident) Amos Dresser
 The Call to Service by Robert Coles
 The Challenge for Pacifists by Michael Farrell
 The Complaint of Peace by Desiderius Erasmus
 The Courage of Conviction by Joan Baez
 The Cure Is Care by Sargent Shriver
 The Danish Resistance by Thomas Merton
 The Dutch Resistance by Peter Ackerman and Jack Duval
 The Early Christian Attitude to War by C. J. Cadoux
 The Early Christians on War by Thomas Clarkson
 The Energy of Nonviolence by Michael True
 The Ethics of Nonviolent Eating by Helen Nearing
 The Great Trial, 23 March, 1922 by Mohandas Gandhi
 The Influence of War on Domestic Happiness - an anonymous essay
 The Inhumane Way of Death by Willie Darden
 The Judge and the Bomb by Miles Lord
 The Kingdom of God is Within You by Leo Tolstoy
 The Law of Violence and the Law of Love by Leo Tolstoy
 The Light in Their Eyes by Laura Moretti
 The Meaning of the Refusal of Military Service by Leo Tolstoy
 The Methods of Nonviolent Protest and Persuasion by Gene Sharp
 The Moral Imagination by Edward Tivnan
 The Myth of the Uncensored War by Jeff Cohen
 The Net of Faith by Peter Chelcický
 The Nonviolent Alternative by Thomas Merton
 The only Remedy for War by W. E. Channing
 The Pains of Life by Joe Giarratano
 The Plea of Reason, Religion, and Humanity by Desiderius Erasmus
 The Politics of Nonviolent Action by Gene Sharp
 The Reich Defied by David McReynolds
 The Rigor of Peace Studies by Ian Harris
 The Scandal of the Works of Mercy by Dorothy Day
 The Technique of Nonviolent Action by Gene Sharp
 The Town that Defied the Holocaust by Grace Yoder
 The Triple Division of Society by Peter Chelcický
 The War Prayer by Mark Twain
 The World's Only True False Quiz on Legalized Killing
 They Tried to Kill Shabaka by Ian Gray and Moira Stanley
 This Money Is Not Ours by Dorothy Day
 Those Troublesome Pacifists by Caroline Moorehead
 Thou Shalt Not Kill by Leo Tolstoy
 Thoughts on Nonviolence by Mohandas Gandhi
 To Be of Use by Marge Piercy
 To the Women of India by Mohandas Gandhi
 Tolstoy and the Larger Vision by Colman McCarthy
 True Grandeur of Notions by Charles Sumner
 True Heroes: Black Male Teachers by Colman McCarthy
 Undeclared War to Declared War by Dorothy Day
 Universal Peace by David Bogue
 Up Against the Arms Merchants by Colman McCarthy
 Views of War by Robert Hall
 Violence: Legal and Illegal by Colman McCarthy
 Volunteers for Peace by Gerard Rice
 Volunteers Forever by Sargent Shriver
 Waking Up To Animal Rights by William Kunstler
 War a Trial by Battle by Charles Sumner
 War and Peace by Leo Tolstoy
 War as Judicial Redress - an anonymous essay
 War Curable - an anonymous essay
 War Inconsistent with Christianity by Howard Malcom
 War Inconsistent with the Religion of Jesus Christ by David Low Dodge
 War Prayers - an anonymous essay
 War Tax Resistance: One Story by Andrea Ayvazian
 War Unlawful under the Christian Dispensation by J. J. Gurney
 War, Property, and Peace by Colman McCarthy
 Waste of Property by War - an anonymous essay
 What I Believe by Leo Tolstoy
 What Would You Do If by Joan Baez
 When Hearts and Minds Didn't Follow by William Blum
 Who Will Apologize For Vietnam by W. D. Ehrhart