

Sociology 325
THE SOCIOLOGY OF NONVIOLENCE

3:30-4:45 pm, T/TH, Spring, 1987
Instructor: LeRoy Moore

Noone
Spring 87
SOC 325

This course will explore the sociology of nonviolence by looking at Gandhi, King, and contemporary efforts which take up their unfinished agenda of "total revolution." Along the way we will consider how nonviolence is related to violence, to power, to democracy, to revolution. Examples will be drawn from struggles throughout the world. Local activists will meet with the class.

Course expectations:

Regular attendance and participation in class discussion
Reading of assigned material (see below)
Writing of short papers (on Gandhi and King)
Final exam or personal project

Texts:

THE POLITICS OF NONVIOLENT ACTION, Part One, by Gene Sharp
NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE, by M. K. Gandhi
WHY WE CAN'T WAIT, by Martin Luther King, Jr.
MY SOUL IS RESTED, by Howell Raines
READINGS ON NONVIOLENCE (a collection of photocopied articles and bibliography, available from Kinko's on the Hill)

Calendar (other readings may be added or substituted):

Th, 1-15: Power and peace: domestic sources of violence and nonviolence
T, 1-22: Gandhi: the Indian setting. NVR, 1-50
Th, 1-24: Gandhi: Satyagraha. NVR, 50-101
T, 1-27: Non-cooperation and civil disobedience. NVR, 102-76
Th, 1-29: Gandhi reforming (Vykom). NVR, 177-203
T, 2-3: Gandhi revolting (Salt March). NVR, 220-91
Th, 2-5: Gandhi: fast, sexuality, leadership. NVR, 310-41
T, 2-10: Gandhi and socialism. NVR, 342-53; READINGS, 3-24
(Gandhi on means and ends; Communist Manifesto; Nehru)
Th, 2-12: Assessing Gandhi. NVR, 354-87
T, 2-17: Slideshow on the history of nonviolence.
Th, 2-19: King: Montgomery Bus Boycott. READINGS, 25-27; MY SOUL, 27-74
T, 2-24: Student Sit-Ins and Freedom Rides. READINGS, 28-29; MY SOUL, 75-129
Th, 2-26: King and the Climactic Year of 1963 in Birmingham. WHY, 15-58; MY SOUL, 139-86
T, 3-3: King in Birmingham and Washington. WHY, 59-152
Th, 3-5: King: Selma and Voting Rights. MY SOUL, 187-231
T, 3-10: King and the Economic Question. MY SOUL, 233-95
Th, 3-12: King on Vietnam and Revolution. READINGS, 30-37
(King on Vietnam; Harding on King and revolution)
T, 3-17: King: Morality, Sexuality, Leadership. Browse MY SOUL, Book Two
Th, 3-19: Power and obedience. POLITICS, part 1
T, 3-31: Empowerment and Resistance. POLITICS, part 2

Th, 4-2: Feminism and Nonviolence. READINGS, 38-56 (Deming on anger; selections from REWEAVING THE WEB)
 T, 4-7: War, Violence, and Human Nature. READINGS, 57-65 (Mead on war; Moore on violence and nature)
 Th, 4-9: War and the question of nonviolent defense. READINGS, 65-71 (Sharp on civilian based defense)
 T, 4-14: Sociology of violence. READINGS, 72-86 (Galtung on personal and structural violence)
 Th, 4-16: Imperialism and the North-South struggle. READINGS, 87-96 (Schell on Poland)
 T, 4-21: Nonviolent resistance in the Third World. READINGS, 97-116 (on the Philippines and Brazil)
 Th, 4-23: Essential features of structural violence. READINGS, 117-137 (Moore on the politics of survival)
 T, 4-28: Toward democracy via nonviolent revolution. READINGS, 137-53 (Moore on continuing the democratic revolution)
 Th, 4-30: The spirituality of nonviolence. READINGS, 154-56 (Moore on communities of conversation)
 W, 5-6, 7:30-10:30 pm: Beginning and ending: final exam

Possible projects or research paper topics:

Nonviolent resistance to the Nazis (Norway; Denmark)
 Civilian based defense
 Czech resistance to the Soviets in 1968
 Nonviolence in Brazil (the world's largest movement)
 SERPAJ (Servicio Paz y Justicia in Latin America)
 Nonviolence and the fall of Marcos (Philippines)
 Nonviolence and apartheid (Desmond Tutu and South Africa)
 Nonviolence and U.S. intervention in the Third World
 Gandhi and Socialism
 Donoli Dolci (Sicily)
 Lorenzo del Vasto (France)
 Barbara Deming
 Tolstoy
 Thomas Merton
 Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker movement
 Cesar Chavez
 The Plowshares Actions (Daniel Berrigan, etc.)
 Marx and nonviolence
 Nonviolence and feminism
 Alternative economic institutions
 The Mondragan cooperatives (Spain)
 Peace songs (folk, religious, pop)
 Nonviolence and Germany's Green Party
 The origins of violence (anthropological study)
 A diary or journal kept throughout this course
 A scrapbook of newsclippings and commentary