

COURSE TITLE: POLITICS AND NONVIOLENCE

Responsible Faculty Instructor:

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Designation: Professor and Vice Dean, Jindal Global Law School

Credits: 4

Credits Type: Non-Law

Cross-registration: Open to All Schools

Pre-requisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION (COURSE VISION):

Over the past century, nonviolent action has achieved profound social change - ending wars, dismantling oppressive regimes, and transforming communities. This course explores the philosophical, religious, and strategic dimensions of nonviolence through Gandhian, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, and secular traditions. Students will critically analyze nonviolence as both an ethical ideal and a pragmatic strategy for political and social transformation. The course emphasizes leadership, creativity, moral courage, and strategic discipline in nonviolent movements.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY:

- **Lectures & Base Materials:** Introductions to key theories, philosophies, and historical case studies.
- **Discussions:** Dialogical engagement with texts and films, fostering critical reflection.
- **Documentary/Film Analysis:** Visual exploration of nonviolence in practice.
- **Research Paper & Response Papers:** Deep engagement with primary thinkers and applied strategies.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Distinguish between philosophical and pragmatic approaches to nonviolence.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of nonviolent theories and their application in conflict resolution.
3. Analyze historical and contemporary case studies of nonviolent action.
4. Critically assess justifications for war and violence.
5. Apply nonviolent strategies in community engagement, peace education, and activism.

READING LIST (upto 10 select readings):

1. Ramin Jahanbegloo, *Introduction to Nonviolence* (2014).
2. M.K. Gandhi, *Hind Swaraj and Other Writings* (1997).
3. Martin Luther King Jr., *Stride Toward Freedom* (1958).
4. Gene Sharp, *The Politics of Nonviolent Action* (1973).
5. Johan Galtung, “On the Meaning of Nonviolence” (*Journal of Peace Research*, 1965).
6. Hannah Arendt, *On Violence* (1970).
7. Walter Wink, *Jesus and Nonviolence: A Third Way* (2003).
8. Nicholas Gier, *The Virtue of Nonviolence: From Gautama to Gandhi* (2003).
9. Joan Bondurant, *Conquest of Violence: The Gandhian Philosophy of Conflict* (1988).
10. Erica Chenoweth & Maria Stephan, *Why Civil Resistance Works* (2011).

WEEKLY READING PLAN (WEEKLY OUTLINE):

Modules	Week(s)
Module 1: Meanings of Violence and Nonviolence • Philosophical and political analysis (Jahanbegloo, Arendt, Galtung)	Week 1
Module 2: Nonviolence and Religion • Spiritual dimensions, fanaticism, interfaith perspectives (Merton, Rynne)	Week 2
Module 3: Eastern Traditions • Jainism, Buddhism, Ahimsa in practice (Gier, Jahanbegloo)	Week 3
Module 4: Christian Nonviolence • Jesus, St. Francis, Liberation Theology (Wink, Gutierrez)	Week 4
Module 5: Islam and Nonviolence • Peace traditions, case studies (Abu-Nimer, Johansen)	Week 5
Module 6: Socrates and Nonviolence • Resistance against evil, critical thinking (Plato, Jahanbegloo)	Week 6
Module 7: Thoreau and Civil Disobedience • <i>Walden</i> , eco-peace, transcendentalism (Thoreau, Lampen)	Week 7
Module 8: Tolstoy and Spiritual Resistance • Anti-militarism, critique of state and religion (Tolstoy, Gandhi)	Week 8
Module 9: Gandhi's Hind Swaraj • Civilization, modernity, Swaraj (Gandhi, Jahanbegloo)	Week 9
Module 10: Satyagraha • Passive resistance, democracy, film screening (Jhaveri film, Gandhi)	Week 10

Module 11: Sarvodaya and Constructive Work • Swadeshi, village industries, duties of citizens (Gandhi, Mantena)	Week 11
Module 12: Martin Luther King Jr. • Community engagement, justice, civil rights (King, Jahanbegloo)	Week 12
Module 13: Legacy of Gandhi & King + Gene Sharp • Pragmatic nonviolence, movements to power (Bondurant, Chenoweth, Sharp)	Week 13
Revision Week	Week 14