SALEM STATE COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS
PHL 309: PHILOSOPHY AND NONVIOLENCE
Fall Semester, 2004
Dr. Krishna Mallick
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Wednesdays/Fridays, 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m., Sullivan Building, Room 107B

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Office Hours: Mondays: 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
Wednesdays and Fridays: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm
and by appointment at other times

TEXTBOOKS


COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course has several goals: 1. Understanding of the concept of nonviolence from various perspectives; 2. Development of each student’s ability to critically evaluate different positions and arguments; 3. Development by each student of her/his own position on each topic, with the ability to defend it against serious alternatives; 4. The ability to apply the views of his/her own life by using nonviolent conflict resolution techniques.

After taking this course, students will be knowledgable about the western and nonwestern practitioners of nonviolence and be familiar with the conflict resolution techniques and apply them to their own lives.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

TEST: Three pre-announced tests from the chapters/articles covered in class.
Total 45 points, each is worth 15 points

GROUP PRESENTATION: Discussion of different topics related to nonviolence. Each group will select a topic from the following list or any other topic related to nonviolence:

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terrorization
profiling
USA PATRIOT ACT
animal rights
gun control
violence in TV
violence towards the environment/nonviolent environmental movements
domestic violence
dating violence
volunteerism
violence in prison
child abuse
conflict resolution techniques
violence in school
Kosovo peace mission
Civil Disobediences of the year 2000: WTO (World Trade Organization) conference in Seattle, Washington, Biodevastation (protest against genetically modified food) and Million Mom March in Washington D.C. (protest against the use of guns)

Each student in the group has to speak for about 10 minutes on one aspect of the topic selected. It has to be a cooperative effort with each person in the group sharing the responsibility. Role playing, conflict resolution groups, showing few minutes of videos followed by the presentation, etc. will be allowed. **Total 20 points, group grade, 10 points and individual grade, 10 points**

**PAPER:** Each student is responsible for writing (approximately 6 to 7 double-spaced typed pages) a critical paper on a book/article written by a practitioner of nonviolence and also present the paper in class in Powerpoint or poster or overhead projector as the final exam project. Read the guidelines for the paper on page 5. **Total 30 points, 15 points for written paper and 15 points for final exam presentation**

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Your participation in class discussion throughout the semester. If you have difficulty in speaking during the discussion, submit written comments to the instructor at least once every week to demonstrate your involvement in the class discussion. **Total 5 points**

**GRADING:** Grading will be determined according to the following points. You will receive letter grade at the end of the semester:

Test: 45 points

Group presentation: 10 points (group grade)
10 points (individual grade)

Paper: 30 points
Class participation: 5 points

Total: 100 points

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required for this course. Attendance will be taken regularly in class. Any more than 3 unexcused absences will lower your final grade. If you have an excused absence, inform the instructor in the following class. Anyone having too many unexcused absences will get an ‘F’ for the course.

If all the above course requirements are not fulfilled, the student will get a grade of “I” (Incomplete).

TEACHING METHOD will be lot of interactive dialogues, discussions and videos/powerpoint presentations. Possibility of a field trip.

Reading and Class Assignments

Students are required to finish the assigned reading before the class and be prepared to discuss in class. All the readings are from the textbook unless otherwise indicated.

Topic: Sources of Nonviolence

9/8/04 Wednesday- Introduction to the course.

9/10/04 Friday- Read chapter 1, “Bhagavad Gita,” pp. 3-15. Discussion in class.


9/17/04 Friday- Continuation of discussion of Crito.


Topic: Historical Voices of Nonviolence


10/1/04 Friday- No class for this course. Homework assignment.

(Go to other side)
10/6/04 Wednesday- Continuation of discussion of Henry David Thoreau. Read chapter 8, “Selections from Gandhi’s Autobiography,” pp. 75-98. See the first part of the feature film “Gandhi” on your own outside of class before this class. See the second part of the feature film “Gandhi” in class.

10/8/04 Friday- Powerpoint presentation of Gandhi in class.

10/13/04 Wednesday- Continuation of discussion of Gandhi in class. Review of Test #1.

10/15/04 Friday- Test #1 on all the chapters covered so far in class.

10/20/04 Wednesday- See the video on South Africa’s Reconciliation, “Long Nights Journey” in class.

10/22/04 Friday- Discussion of the video seen in the last class. Read chapter 9, “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” by Martin Luther King, Jr., pp. 99-114.

10/27/04 Wednesday- Continuation of discussion of Martin Luther King, Jr.

10/29/04 Friday- Group 1 and 2 presentations.

Topic: Contemporary Voices of Nonviolence


11/5/04 Friday- Group 3 and 4 presentations.


11/12/04 Friday- Test #2 on articles, videos covered after Test #1.

Topic: Conflict Resolution

11/17/04 Wednesday- Read chapter 20, “The Eight Essential Steps to Conflict Resolution,” pp. 231-244. Do roleplaying in class. Summary of the topic for your paper is due in class.


THANKSGIVING BREAK

Topic: Application of Nonviolence & Women’s Voices of Nonviolence
12/1/04 Wednesday- Read chapter 24, “Gandhian Satyagraha and the Chipko Movement of India,” pp. 279-285. Written paper is due in class.

12/3/04 Friday- Read the handout on Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma/Myanmar. See a Powerpoint presentation in class.

12/8/04 Wednesday- Test # 3 on all the materials covered after test # 2.

12/10/04 Friday- See part of the video, “Force more powerful.” Last day of class.

GUIDELINE FOR THE PAPER

Due date of the paper is Wednesday, December 1, 2004 in class. One-day grace period is Thursday, December 2, 2004. Drop the paper in my office, SB 203B-5 by 2 pm on December 2. Save a copy of the paper in the disk in case the paper gets lost. Anyone turning in the paper later than December 2 will lose 5 points for being late. More late you are, more points you will lose.

Length of the paper: 7-9 double-spaced typed pages

Your paper should be an in-depth analytical paper with an attempt to establish some point by giving reasons for it and defend your viewpoint against the opponent’s viewpoint.

The topic of your paper can be on any issue/topic or practitioner related to nonviolence. Your paper should not be just an informative paper or a historical paper or a biography. If you select a practitioner of nonviolence, analyze a book/article s/he has written. I would suggest you to select a practitioner who we have not studied in class. If you select a topic or an issue, narrow it down to a very specific topic/issue and discuss it critically from different perspectives by relating it to a practitioner, present or past and by giving your standpoint on the topic/issue in the concluding part of your paper. Again, I suggest that the practitioner should be someone who we have not studied in class.

A Bibliography of three or more sources is required.

Inform the instructor about the topic of your paper by Wednesday, November 17, 2004.

There is no final exam for this course.