

PJCS 313: Violence/Nonviolence
Goshen College
Fall 2008
Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Course Information

Instructor: Andy Alexis-Baker
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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-3:00

Course Description

Although highly interconnected the nature, causes and types of violence are seldom brought into conversation with the theories/philosophies/theologies of nonviolence. This course will be an interdisciplinary study of violence and nonviolence. Violence is a web connecting interpersonal, structural, and institutional relationships. Nonviolence is both a political tactic/strategy and a life-style/vocation. Students will become aware of issues of power, privilege, white supremacy, race, gender and imperialism and the interconnection of these ideas with issues of hope, fear, violence and nonviolence.

Course Objectives

- To become familiar with how definitions and theories of violence and nonviolence affect choices.
- To become familiar with how violence towards nature, non-human animals, people of color, and revolution usually have similar justifications.
- To become aware of white privilege and how it affects what tactics nonviolence advocates use, how it affects white people's participation in violent systems.
- To gain an understanding of nonviolence as both a political tactic and strategy as well as a life-style/vocation.

Course Requirements

1. Attend and actively participate in class sessions and activities. After one absence I expect you to have a very good excuse for missing class. Absences will affect your grade.
2. Read (or view) all assigned readings and complete reflections on readings before each class period
3. Students will turn in a 1 page (300 word) reflection each class period based on the readings or video assignments. These are to be posted to Moodle by midnight the night before class.
4. Midterm and Final Examinations on 10/21 and 12/11. The midterm exam will cover materials through midterm and the final will cover materials encountered after midterm. Exams will be in essay form and use the entire class time. I will hand out a list of questions before each test. I will choose questions from that list for the test.
5. A final paper, between 1500-2000 words (excluding footnotes and bibliography), will be due 12/4 one week before the final. Paper topics must be approved by the instructor. See handout on final paper.

Grading, Academic Integrity, Disability Accommodations, and Inclusive Language

1. Evaluation and final course grade will be based on the accumulation of points earned through the following:
 - a. Reflection papers — 20%
 - b. Participation and attendance — 5%
 - c. Mid-term exam — 20%
 - d. Final exam — 25%
 - e. Final paper/presentation — 25%
2. Grading scale:
 - A 93-100
 - A- 90-92
 - B+ 87-89
 - B 83-86
 - B- 80-82
 - C+ 77-79
 - C 73-76
 - C- 70-72
 - D+ 67-69
 - D 63-66
 - F below 6
1. I will deduct 5% for the first 24 hours that an assignment is overdue and 10% for 24-120 hours (1-5 days). I will not accept work that is later than five days.
2. Students should uphold the Goshen College Standards of Academic Integrity found in the online Student Handbook <http://www.goshen.edu/edtech/stuhandbk.htm>. Violations of these guidelines include: plagiarism, cheating on assignments or exams, falsification of data, submission of the same (or substantially the same) paper in more than one course without the prior consent of all instructors concerned, depriving others of necessary academic sources, and sabotaging another student's work. I will take all violations seriously and act upon them based on the College's guidelines.
3. Statement Regarding Disability Accommodations — Goshen College wants to help all students to be as academically successful as possible. If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. In order to receive accommodations, documentation concerning your disability must be on file with the Academic Support Center, AD 14a, x 7576, margotmz@goshen.edu. All information will be held in the strictest confidence.
4. Students should follow the Goshen College Commitment to Inclusive Language and guidelines found in the online Sexuality Packet <http://www.goshen.edu/studentlife/sexuality/inlang.shtml>. Thus, student work should be free of racist, sexist and ageist language and in this class (speciesist language as well), or their grade will suffer.

Required Texts

Churchill, Ward. *Pacifism as Pathology*. Oakland, CA: AK Press, 2007.

Churchill, Ward. *Kill the Indian, Save the Man: The Genocidal Impact of American Indian Residential Schools*. San Francisco: City Lights, 2004.

Lewis, Ted, ed. *Electing Not to Vote: Christian Reflections on Reasons for Not Voting*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2008.

Torres, Bob. *Making a Killing: The Political Economy of Animal Rights*. Oakland, CA: AK Press, 2007.

Schedule:

Week 1 (9/2) Introduction

(9/4) Defining Violence: Wide View

Galtung, Johan. "Cultural Violence." *Journal of Peace Research* 27, no. 3 (1990): 291–305.

Legitimist View and Restrictive View

Wolff, Robert Paul. "On Violence." *The Journal of Philosophy* 66, no. 19 (1969): 601–16.

Restrictive View

Arendt, Hannah. *On Violence*. New York: Harcourt, 1970: 35–60.

Degenaar, Johan. "The Concept of Violence." In *Political Violence in the Struggle in South Africa*, edited by N. Chabani Manganyi and André du Toit, 70–86. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990.

Week 2 (9/9) Defining Nonviolence

Bartsch, Hans-Werner. "The Foundation and Meaning of Christian Pacifism." In *New Theology No. 6*, edited by Martin Marty and Dean Peerman, 185–98. New York: MacMillan, 1969.

Schottroff, Luise. "The Dual Concept of Peace." In *The Meaning of Peace*, edited by Perry Yoder and Willard Swartley, 121–28. Elkhart, IN: Institute of Mennonite Studies, 1992.

Gandhi, Mahatma. *The Essential Gandhi: An Anthology of His Writings on His Life, Work, and Ideas*. Edited by Louis Fischer. New York: Vintage Books, 2002, 75–83.

King, Martin Luther. "Love, Law, and Civil Disobedience." In *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King Jr.*, edited by James M. Washington, 43–53. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1991.

Lang, Berel. "Civil Disobedience and Nonviolence: A Distinction with a Difference." *Ethics* 80, no. 2 (1970): 156–59.

(9/11) Origins of Civilization and Warfare: The Civilized/Uncivilized Dichotomy and Violence

Mason, Jim. "The Animal Question: Uncovering the Roots of our Domination of Nature and Each Other." In *Igniting a Revolution: Voices in Defense of the Earth*, edited by Steven Best and Anthony J. Nocella, 178–85. Oakland, CA: AK Press, 2006.

Zerzan, John. "On the Origins of War." *Green Anarchy* 21 (2005–06): 12–13, 15.

Week 3 (9/16) State-Making and War-Making: The *Raison D'Etire* of the State

Cavanaugh, William T. "Killing for the Telephone Company: Why the Nation-State is Not the Keeper of the Common Good." *Modern Theology* 20, no. 2 (April, 2004): 243–74.

Tilly, Charles. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." In *Bringing the State Back In*, edited by Peter Evans, et al., 169–87. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1985.

(9/18) Colonialism and "Civilizing" Primal People

Churchill, Ward. *Kill the Indian, Save the Man: The Genocidal Impact of American Indian Residential Schools*. San Francisco: City Lights, 2004, 1–80.

Week 4 (9/23) Civil Rights Movement (In class film)

- Watch "Ain't Scared of Your Jails (1960-1961)," Vol. III of *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Movement*:
<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4555111102569168702&ei=OCS3SL78FpDo-AG0hbzXDA&q=America%27s+Civil+Rights+Movement+Episode+03+&hl=en>

(9/25) Civil Rights Movement

- Watch an Interview with Malcolm X (on Moodle or at the following link):
<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/videodir/asx2/malcolm.asx>
- Malcolm X's 1964 speech "Ballot or a Bullet"
(On Moodle or listen to it at this link:)

Week 5 (9/30) The Origins of Whiteness

Kendall, Frances. "What Does It Mean To Be White." In *Understanding White Privilege*, 41–59. New York: Routledge, 2006.

(10/2) White Privilege : In class video and discussion

Wildman, Stephanie, and Adrienne Davis. "Making System of Privilege Visible." In *White Privilege: Essential Readings on the Other Side of Racism*, edited by Paula Rothenberg, 89–95. New York: Worth, 2002.

Kendall, Frances. "Understanding White Privilege." In *Understanding White Privilege*, 60–78. New York: Routledge, 2006.

Wise, Tim. "Membership Has It's Privileges: Thoughts on Acknowledging and Challenging Whiteness."

Week 6 (10/7) Vietnam War And Nonviolence

- Cambden 28 Video Documentary: (watch on YouTube prior to class)

(10/9) Responsibility to Protect:

Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty

UN Resolution 60/1 (paragraphs 138-140)

World Council of Churches - Vulnerable populations at risk. Statement on the responsibility to protect file

Hauerwas, Stanley. "Who is 'We'?" *Sojourners* 22, no. 3 (1993): 15.

Hehir, J. Bryan. "Testing the Ethics of Intervention." *Sojourners* 22, no. 3 (1993): 16–18.

Nelson-Pallmeyer, Jack. "Wise as Serpents, Gentle as Doves? The Challenge to Nonviolence in the Face of Pleas for Intervention." *Sojourners* 22, no. 3 (1993): 10–13.

Week 7 (10/14) Just Policing

Schlabach, Gerald. "Just Policing: How War Could Cease to be a Church-Dividing Issue." In *Just Policing: Mennonite-Catholic Theological Colloquium, 2002*, edited by Ivan Kauffman, J., 19-75. Kitchener, Ontario: Pandora Press, 2004. Or read online at:
<http://personal2.stthomas.edu/gwschlabach/docs/policing.htm>

(10/16) Police and Violence: On Keeping the Cops at Bay

Alexis-Baker, Andy. "The Gospel or a Glock?: Mennonites and the Police." *Conrad Grebel Review* 25, no. 2 (Spring, 2007): 23–49.

Winright, Tobias. "Community Policing as a Paradigm for International Relations." In *Just Policing, Not War*, edited by Gerald Schlabach, 130–52. Colleagueville, MN.: Liturgical Press, 2007.

Week 8 (10/23) Violence, Nonviolence and Voting (Midterm due)

Roth, John. "Why Believers Might Conscientiously Abstain from Voting," In *Electing Not to Vote: Christian Reflections on Not Voting*, 1–9.

Alexis-Baker, Nekeisha. "Freedom of Voice: Non-Voting and Political Imagination," In *Electing Not to Vote: Christian Reflections on Not Voting*, 23–36.

Degan, Michael. "Electing Not to Vote: Whether Choosing Red or Blue, Politics is Love of Mammon," In *Electing Not to Vote: Christian Reflections on Not Voting*, 50–61.

Sumantri, Tato. "Reflections on the Incoherence of the Church," In *Electing Not to Vote: Christian Reflections on Not Voting*, 91–100.

Lewis, Ted. "The 'Presidentialdom of God: Our Conversation with Pilate,'" In *Electing Not to Vote: Christian Reflections on Not Voting*, 101–116.

- Audio: Stanley Hauerwas on Voting, Democracy and Christian Discipleship (11minutes): On Moodle
- McLaren, Brian. "To Vote or Not to Vote." Belief Net:
<http://blog.beliefnet.com/godspolitics/2008/07/to-vote-or-not-to-vote-by-bria.html>

Week 9 (10/28) Responsibility to Protect Revisited

Stoltzfus, Gene, Ted Koontz, Ernie Regehr, and Pakisha Tshimika. "Caring for the Least of These." Canadian Mennonite, April 14 2008, 4–12. PDF document

Regehr, Ernie. "Protecting the Imperiled and the Limits to Force: The Case of Afghanistan." In *The Responsibility to Protect- International Ecumenical Consultation*. Arnoldshain, Germany: World Council of Churches, 2007. PDF document

Fehr, James Jakob. "The Responsibility to Resist Evil: A Pacifist Critique of R2P from the Historic Peace Churches." In *Church and Peace Consultation Responding to Decade to Overcome Violence*. Ammerdown, Australia, 2008.

(10/30) Ward Churchill on Nonviolence

Read 45-73 of Churchill's *Pacifism as Pathology*

Week 10 (11/4) Churchill Continued, Zapatistas, Las Abejas and the Anti-Globalization Movement

Read 74-104 of Churchill's *Pacifism as Pathology*

(11/6) Violence and Nonviolence towards Creation

Jensen, Derrick, and George Draffan. *Strangely Like War: The Global Assault on Forests*. White River Junction, VT: Chelsea Green, 2003, 1–20; 30–41.

Week 11 (11/11) Violence and Nonviolence Towards Non-Human Animals

Torres, Bob. *Making a Killing: The Political Economy of Animal Rights*. Oakland, CA: AK Press, 2007, 1–12; 13–27; 33–56.

In class video: Earthlings (mandatory attendance)

(11/13) Violence and Nonviolence towards Non-human Animals (Guest Lecture: Nekeisha Alexis-Baker — “Speciesism, Racism and Patriarchy: Intertwining Oppressions”)

Torres, Bob. *Making a Killing*, 57–88.

Week 12 (11/18) Violence and Nonviolence towards Non-human Animals

Torres, Bob. *Making a Killing*, 123–151.

(11/20) Background information on Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front

No Reading. The class will be mostly lecture that gives background for the material to be read Tuesday Nov. 25

Week 13 (11/25) Earth Liberation Front and the Animal Liberation Front

Text of S. 3880 [109th]: Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act
Green Rage, by Matt Rasmussen. *Orion: People and Nature Magazine*.

Week 14 (12/2) Biblical Critique of Civilization

Bring a Bible to class.

(12/4) Wrap up and discussion of final (Final Paper Due)

No Assignment, no reflection papers are due.

Week 15 (12/11) Finals Due