

Announcing
International Course
On
Gandhian Nonviolence: Theory and Application

2021-2022 (9th batch)

Note: Because of COVID Condition, this year the course will be run in Online mode

Part A: Rationale of the Programme

As the title suggests, the overall purpose of the course is to give its seekers orientation in the theoretical and practical dimensions of Nonviolence as explained and applied by Mahatma Gandhi in his personal and public life. However, the course content will not be limited to the Gandhian framework only; the examples and interpretations of other practitioners of nonviolence will also be relied upon.

We know that the contemporary world is in turmoil. The chief characteristic of the contemporary world is violence; escalating and intensifying violence has become the key defining feature in public life and discourse. Terrorism and war on terrorism mark the worst manifestations of violence and has created a new discourse. Some of the sensitive people in the west even ask: Are we facing End –Time? The more pertinent question, of course, is how we address and get out of the vicious circle of violence. It is here that Gandhi steps in with his message of all-embracing nonviolence or *ahimsa*.

It is well known that there is a growing interest world-wide, particularly in the west, on Gandhi and his theory and practice of nonviolence. Peace activists are trying to understand Gandhian nonviolence in order to equip themselves better in their struggle for peace and justice. Many of them have expressed their desire to get a formal training in Gandhian nonviolence in India which would expose them not only to the life, philosophy and method of Gandhi but also to Indian social life and culture.

It is in this context Gujarat Vidyapith started an INTERNATIONAL COURSE on Gandhian Nonviolence: Theory and application since 2011. We are happy to inform that we are launching **9th batch** of this course **in online mode because of Covid condition**. The duration of the course will be one semester i.e., four months.

Part B: Course Structure and Regulations

- ❖ The programme will cover the academic parts and **will be held through online this year.** The participants will get their practical experience in nearby areas themselves participating in some socially useful activities in the line of nonviolent ideology. The whole scheduled of programme will be sent after finalizing the students list . There will be at least two online academic sessions everyday (from Monday to Friday) barring holidays.
- ❖ There will be provision for concurrent evaluation and a comprehensive evaluation at the end.
- ❖ There will be no end semester examination. Instead, there will be an open house with a select group of *acharyas* (teachers) and activists for further clarification and appraisal. **This will be done also through online.**
- ❖ It will be mandatory to submit a consolidated report on what they learned and experienced.
- ❖ There will be an evaluation from the side of Vidyapith.
- ❖ A certificate distribution programme will be held **online** in which Course Diplomas will be presented to the candidates.
- ❖ **No fee will be charged for the course.**
- ❖ **The course will commence on 2nd October 2021 and will be completed on 30th January, 2022.**
- ❖ **Participants are expected to join in all learning and class activities scheduled by Gujarat Vidyapith .**
- ❖ Application containing a brief bio data (which should necessarily include the educational background and activist profile of the applicant) and a short note explaining the reason why she/he would like to take the course should be sent to The Registrar, Gujarat Vidyapith, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad, PIN: 380 014, India, (e-mail <registrar@gujaratvidyapith.org>) **so as to reach him on or before 15 August 2021.** **Students associated with NGO's or Voluntary organizations will be preferred for admission.** Candidates sponsored by organisations should attach the sponsoring letter also to the application.

- ❖ **Gujarat Vidyapith reserves the right to cancel the studentship of any of the participants if they are found irregular in the scheduled learning activities.**

Part C: Course Modules

Course 1: Defining Features of Gandhian Nonviolence

I

1. Correlation between Truth and Nonviolence – Truth as the end and Nonviolence the mean.
2. Meaning of nonviolence - Ontological, Epistemological and Ethical dimensions of nonviolence – negative and positive dimensions of nonviolence - Gandhi’s emphasis on the positive dimension

II

3. Basic Assumptions: spiritual basis - oneness of life – human nature and nonviolence
4. Nonviolence as Soul Force – invincibility of soul force – atom versus atman – universal applicability of nonviolence.
5. Nonviolence as ‘the law of our being’ – as ‘the law of our species’ and the law/direction of human evolution – History (of human evolution) as the unfolding of progressive nonviolence.
6. Nonviolence, the moral equivalent of the law of gravitation – revolutionary potential of nonviolence – the need for making nonviolence the central organising principle of all life activities.

III

7. Types of nonviolence – principled and strategic nonviolence – nonviolence of the weak and the coward – nonviolence, true/genuine and counterfeit – absolute and existential violence.

IV

8. Nonviolence – Gandhi’s prime concern – why nonviolence – futility of violence and efficacy of nonviolence.

Reading List

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| M.K.Gandhi | <i>Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi (CWMG), [Relevant Volumes](Publication Division) In Search of the Supreme (Navajivan)</i>

<i>Non Violence in Peace and War (Navajivan)</i> |
| Raghavan Iyer (ed.) | <i>The Moral and Political Works of Mahatma Gandhi (Oxford: Clarendon Press)</i> |
| Louis Fisher | <i>The Life of Mahatma Gandhi (New York)</i>

<i>Gandhi: His Life and Message for the World (New York)</i> |
| UntoTahtinen | <i>Ahimsa: Non-violence in Indian Tradition (Ahmedabad, Navajivan)</i> |
| T.K.Uniithan
& Yogendra Singh | <i>Traditions of Non-violence (Arnold Heineman, Delhi)</i> |
| Anima Bose | <i>Dimensions of Peace and Nonviolence : The Gandhian Perspective (New Delhi, Gian Pub.House)</i> |
| M.P.Mathai | <i>Mahatma Gandhi’s World-view (New Delhi, Gandhi Peace Foundation)</i> |
| Albert Schweitzer | <i>Indian Thought and Its Development (Wilco Bombay)</i> |
| V.K.Kool | <i>The Psychology of Nonviolence and Aggression (Palgrave Macmilan)</i> |
| Robert L.Hlomes | |

and Barry L.Gan

Nonviolence in Theory and Practice (Long Grove,
IL, Waveland Press)

Course 2. Application of Nonviolence: Gandhian Approach

I

1. Gandhi's life as a paradigm of nonviolence in action

II

2. Nonviolence in personal life – as a way of life: intra-personal, inter-personal and ecological/cosmic dimensions.
3. Consolidating the power of nonviolence through personal *sadhana* – moral/spiritual authority of a nonviolent person – power of authentic nonviolence of an individual developing into an objective social force – its power and potential - examples from history, past and present.

III

4. Organised and collective use of nonviolence – Satyagraha/nonviolent direct action.
5. Basic assumptions and principles of Satyagraha.
6. Variants and techniques of Satyagraha.
7. Universal applicability of Satyagraha – reformative and revolutionary applications
8. Satyagraha and Constructive Programme in the Gandhian scheme – Gandhian Constructive Programme as illustrative example.

IV

9. Case studies/examples of nonviolent resistances in different countries and situations - paradigmatic satyagrahies/nonviolent fighters.

Reading List

M.K.Gandhi	<i>Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi (CWMG),</i> [Relevant Volumes](New Delhi, Publication Division)
	<i>Satyagraha In South Africa</i> (Ahmedabad, Navajivan)
	<i>In Search of the Supreme</i> (Ahmedabad,Navajivan)
	<i>Non Violence in Peace and War</i> (Ahmedabad, Navajivan)
R.R.Diwakar	The Saga of Satyagraha (New Delhi, Gandhi Peace Foundation)
Richard B. Gregg	<i>The Power of Non-violence</i> (Ahmedabad, Navajivan)
Gene Sharp	<i>The Politics of Nonviolent Action Part 1, 2, & 3</i> (Boston, Porter Sargent)
Joan Valerie Bondurant	<i>Conquest of Violence: The Gandhian Philosophy of Conflict</i> (Princeton, Princeton University Press)
Dennis Dalton	<i>Gandhi's Power Nonviolence in Action</i> (Oxford India Paperback)
Peter Ackerman and Jack DuVall	<i>A Force More Powerful</i> (Palgrave Macmillan)
Howard Clark	<i>People Power: Unarmed Resistance and Global Solidarity</i> (London, Pluto Press)
Beck Sanderson	<i>Nonviolent Action Handbook</i> (Goleta California, World Peace Communications)
Narayan Desai	<i>A Handbook for Satyagrahis</i> (New Delhi, Gandhi Peace Foundation)
Ackerman, Peter, and Christopher Kruegler	<i>Strategic Nonviolent Conflict: The Dynamics of People Power in the 20th Century.</i> Westport, CT: Praeger, 1993.

Albert, David H.

People Power: Applying Nonviolence Theory.
Philadelphia: New Society Publishers, 1985.

Course 3. Dealing with Conflicts – Conflict Transformation

1. Meaning of Conflict
2. The sources of conflict- political - economic - environmental - historical - cultural - psychological
3. Analysis of conflict- actors – causes- issues, scope and stage of the conflict- power resources and relationships – stakeholders – facilitators- spoilers
4. Conflict- different phases- Conflict Prevention and early warning- ripeness
5. Problem –solving, including workshop approach in protracted conflicts
6. Negotiations – positions and interests- negotiating style – principled negotiation- elements of Gandhian style negotiations- negotiating with difficult people
7. Third Party Intervention – Types of Third Party Intervention – Mediation- prescriptive vs. elicitive approaches
8. Thomas – Killman’s Five Conflict Styles
9. Satyagraha and Conflict Transformation
10. Conflict Transformation- Reconciliation- Truth, Justice, Mercy and Forgiveness
11. Essential skills – analyzing, communicating clearly, synthesizing, listening, drafting, inventing new options- cultural sensitivity- anger management etc.

Reading List

Mark Jurgensmeyer

Gandhi’s Way A Handbook of Conflict Resolution
(New Delhi, Oxford University Press)

- Collins, Randall *Conflict Sociology: Toward an Explanatory Science.* (New York: Academic Press, 1975)
- Galtung, Johan. *Solving Conflicts: A Peace Research Perspective.* (Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press, 1989)
- Galtung, Johan. *Peace by Peaceful Means: Peace and Conflict, Development and Civilization* (London: Sage, 1996)
- Lederach, John Paul. *The Moral Imagination: The Art and Soul of Building Peace.* (Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2005)
- Lederach, John Paul. *The Little Book of Conflict Transformation* (Intercourse, PA: Good Books, 2003)
- Schrock-Shenk, Carolyn, (ed.) *Mediation and Facilitation Training Manual: Foundations and Skills for Constructive Conflict Transformation.* (Akron, PA: Mennonite Conciliation Service, 2000)
- Oliver Ramsbotham, Tom Woodhouse
& Hugh Miall *Contemporary Conflict Resolution* (Oxford, Blackwell, 1999)
- Ronald J. Fisher *Transforming Violent Conflicts* (Syracuse University Press, 1997)
- Vayrynen, Raimo, ed. *New Directions in Conflict Theory: Conflict Resolution and Conflict Transformation.* (London: Sage, 1991)
- Blalock, Hubert M. *Power and Conflict: Towards a General Theory* (Newbury Park. CA: Sage Publications, 1989)
- Burton, John, *Conflict: Human Needs Theory.* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990)
- Burgess, Heidi,
and Burgess, Guy M. *Encyclopaedia of Conflict Resolution.* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 1997)