This course will provide understanding of nonviolence and nonviolent social change in the modern world through a synthesis of knowledge drawn from religion, philosophy, history, literature, political science, and peace studies. Through select biographical and historical case studies, this course will focus on an in-depth understanding of human history and experience that have brought about nonviolent change and transformations around the world. The course will

- provide a deeper understanding of meaning and scope of nonviolence and its relevance to education.
- examine the connections between thought and action, principles and way of life, self and society,
- explore the histories of nonviolent social change,
- evaluate the power of nonviolence and nonviolent actions,
- highlight the pioneering role of Mohandas K. Gandhi and his legacy impacting Badshah Khan, Martin Luther King Jr. Cesar Chavez, and the Dalai Lama in living and leading nonviolent social change,
- explore the practical relevance of nonviolence and nonviolent methods in our personal, interpersonal, professional, social and international contexts.

Finally, the overall course learning experience will have both educational and practical value as it will stimulate your critical reflection about the relevance of nonviolence in the contemporary context and will also inform your choice of strategies for addressing various types of conflicts you may experience.

**Course Readings**

Eknath Easwaran, *Nonviolent Soldier of Islam*

Satish Kumar, *Buddha and the Terrorist*

Tara Sethia, *Gandhi: Pioneer of Nonviolent Social Change*

In addition, you will be reading excerpts from select sources. These will be emailed to you. You will also view and analyze relevant documentaries in class as visual primary sources of learning.

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

You are required to read the assigned readings prior to class meeting and participate in discussions on a regular basis. Course assignments include: Mid-Term and Final Exams; structured discussions of readings; Discussion of documentaries and a cumulative report on them; A brief presentation based on your learning experience from the course. To facilitate your learning, specific guidelines for all assignments, including in-class exams and presentations will be provided in due course of time. *Late assignments will not be accepted, and make-up exams will not be given except under medical emergency for which documentation will be required.*
You are always welcome to consult with me during my office hours and/or by making an appointment.

**Course Grade will be calculated as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance (7%) and Class Participation excluding structured discussions (7%)</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structured Discussions (7 discussions, each 3%)</td>
<td>21%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Documentary Discussions (8%, each discussion 2%) and Cumulative Report (7%)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Presentations</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Following is the weekly schedule of topics and readings.

**Week 1**
1/11-15 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
1/15-19 Welcome and Introduction to the Course

**Week 2**
1/18-22 Nonviolence: What and Why?

**Week 3**
1/25-29 Nonviolence in the 21st Century
   Reading: Excerpts from Religious Traditions

**Week 4**
2/1-5 Transformative Power of Nonviolence
   Reading: Satish Kumar, *Buddha and the Terrorist*
   Structured Discussion #2:

**Exemplars of Nonviolent Social Change: Their Vision and Methods for Positive Change**

**Week 5**
2/8-12 Compassion and Nonviolence versus Terror and Violence
   Reading: *Gandhi*, Chapters 1-5

**Week 6**
2/15-19 Gandhi as Pioneer: Methods and strategies employed in his movements
   Readings: *Gandhi*, Chapters 5-10
   Documentary: *A Force More Powerful (Salt March)*
   Letter from Gandhi to Lord Irwin
   Structured Discussion #3:

**Week 7**
2/22-26 Badshah Khan, “The Frontier Gandhi,”
   Reading: *Easwaran, The Nonviolent Soldier of Islam*, (rest of the half)
   Structured Discussion #4
Week 8
3/1-5  In-Class Mid-Term: March 9
Martin Luther King, Jr  
Readings: King Nobel Lecture: Pilgrimage to Nonviolence  
Letter from Birmingham Jail “The Quest for Peace and Justice

Week 9
3/8-12 Structured Discussion #5  
Readings: King Nobel Lecture: Pilgrimage to Nonviolence  
Letter from Birmingham Jail “The Quest for Peace and Justice

Week:10
3/15-19  Cesar Chavez and la Causa  
Readings: Chavez, “Creative Nonviolence,” “Good Friday” and other handouts  
Structured Discussions #6

Hope for Nonviolence: Forgiveness and the Power of Transformation

Week 11
3/22-26  Aftermath of Apartheid in South Africa: Challenge of Truth and Reconciliation  
Discussion: Long Night’s Journey into the Day

Week 12
3/29-4/2  Meditation and Prison Reform  
Discussion and Assignment: Dhamma Brothers  
Reading: Letters from Dhamma Brothers (selections)

Week 13
4/5-9  Is Nonviolence Relevant Today? Lessons for Science and Spirituality
Readings: The Dalai Lama, “Hope for the Future”  
Structured Discussion #7  
Documentary Discussions Report Due: April 20

Week 14
4/12-16  Student Presentations

Week 15:  
4/19-23  Course Conclusion & Review  
Final Exam