

Philosophy 344-01---**Comparative Peace Studies**---Spring 2008---Langdon 107

Instructor: Tom Imhoff (call me “Professor” or “Professor Imhoff”)

Office: Trinity Hall 107-----email: use WebCt email through your portal account

Office Hours: MWF 9:30 to 10:30, TR 2:00 to 3:00-----Office Phone: 898-4743

Course Description: This course examines the philosophical, political, historical, religious, sociological and psychological sources of nonviolence as well as the philosophical & ideological underpinnings of nonviolent responses to coercion.

Course Goals: Students should:

- understand and appreciate the historical possibilities for peaceful resistance to state sponsored violence and
- understand the moral, political, historical, sociological and psychological power that nonviolent responses to violence represent in our time.

Required texts:

Understanding Politics, by William Stewart (ISBN [ISBN: 0-88316-575-9])

The Search for a Nonviolent Future, by Michael Nagler [ISBN 1-930722-40-0]

Nonviolence in Theory and Practice (NTP), by Holmes [ISBN: 1-57766-183-4]

The first text is available at the AS bookstore, second floor of the BMU.

The second and third texts are available at Lyon Books (on 5th Street next to the Post Office between Main and Broadway on the south side of the new city plaza).

GRADING 5 one page outlines (topics assigned)-----25%

BREAKDOWN Essay 1: Nonviolence—a multicultural view-----25%

Essay 2: Escaping Hell through Meaning -----25%

Final Outline Assignment (a case study)-----25%

Reading Schedule:

week 1 (Jan. 28) *Understanding Politics*, Chapters 1, 2 & 3—Prismatic Analysis & Anarchism;

week 2 (Feb. 4) UP, Chapters 4 & 5 & 6—Tories & Oligarchs & Classical Liberals;

week 3 (Feb. 11) UP, Chapters 7, 8 & 9—Radical Liberals, Socialists and Commies;

week 4 (Feb. 18) UP, Chapters 10 & 12—Fascists & Morality;

week 5 (Feb. 25) Nonviolence---Jainism, Lao Tzu, Bhagavad-Gita (NTP) pp. 4—22;

Nonviolence--- Judaism, Christianity, Thoreau (NTP) pp. 23—63;

week 6 (March 3) Tolstoy, Gandhi, and King---Nonviolent Actors, (NTP) pp. 69—113;

week 7 (March 10) Hope in Dark Times (SNF): Preface (pp. xi to xvii), Introduction (pp. xxi to xxv); Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 1 to 59) Sketching essay 1—the possibility of nonviolence;

[Spring Break: March 15 through March 23]

week 8 (March 24) Women and Nonviolence, (NTP) pp. 119—135; Contemporary nonviolent women & feminism, (NTP) pp. 136—172;

week 9 (April 7) Pacifism, (NTP) pp. 173—232;

week 10 (April 14) The nonviolent moment and nonviolent work, (SNF) pp. 60—130;

week 11 (April 21) Escaping Hell, (SNF) pp. 131—159, sketching essay 3;

week 12 (April 28) Fighting fire with water: compassion, (SNF) pp. 220—274;

week 13 (May 5) Pragmatic Nonviolence, (NTP) pp. 233—260; Constructive peace: getting a clear picture, (SNF) pp. 160—219;

week 14 (May 12) Principled nonviolence, (NTP) pp. 261—305;

Nonviolent examples, (NTP) pp. 305—343; Nonviolence in the mid-east, (NTP) pp. 344—378;
(final outline topics are taken from NTP pp. 305 to 378)

Finals Week (May 19--23) Phil 344 Exam Period (Student Presentations): Langdon 107, Thur., May 22 from 10:00AM to 11:50AM. Each student may rewrite the two essays once for a better grade. The final outline assignment is like the earlier 5 except that the outline in 2 single spaced pages, not one.