Course Title: Gender, and Non-Violent Transformation of Conflict

ANOUK GUINE

Course number/number of credits
GPB-6010 2 credits

Pre-requisites or co-requisites: An interest in the study of nonviolence and other approaches to peace, and their articulation with gender.

Course description
This course focuses on the theory and practice of violence and nonviolence from a gender and feminist perspective, and deals with social conflicts at interpersonal, intergroup, and intersocietal levels. The course will consist of two main conceptual parts (which do not correspond to the chronology of the syllabus):

I. We will explore the origins of violence and the social construction of masculinity. Within a constructive but also comparative and critical approach, we will also examine: (1) The philosophical, religious and secular origins of nonviolence; (2) The spiritual dimensions of nonviolence; (3) The pragmatist approach to nonviolence elaborated by Gene Sharp.

II. We will explore a feminist perspective on nonviolence, through the feminist liberation theology, as well as the articulation between women, feminism, pacifism, just war, and nonviolence. We will then examine violence against women in the private and public spheres, violence against lesbians and gay men, and their antiviolence activism. Finally, we will examine case studies on women’s resistance against violence in Asia, Latin America, Africa, North America, and Europe.

N.B. Neither the “pro-life” (anti-abortion) feminist perspective on nonviolence, nor “maternal thinking” will be considered in this course.
Course Length
26 February- 9 March

Instructor
Anouk Guiné
aguine@upeace.org
Tel: 205-9078

Course times and meeting place
Monday through Friday
9 a.m.-12 noon
University for Peace campus, Rodeo
Classroom #4

Course Overview
A. **Intended Participants:** Students and / or professionals interested in different theoretical and pragmatic perspectives on violence and nonviolence, as well as feminist approaches of nonviolence.
B. **Minimum and maximum number of students:** Between 10 and 15 students.
C. **Prerequisite knowledge, skills or sensitivities:** in the field of gender studies, feminism, and the philosophy of nonviolence.
D. **Types of issues addressed:** Origins of violence; introduction to the study of nonviolence; philosophical, religious and secular origins of nonviolence; the spiritual dimensions of nonviolence; liberation theology; feminism and pacifism; feminist liberation theology; sexual terrorism; theories of violence against women; gay and lesbian antiviolence activism; women against violence.
E. **Relations to larger issues of peace and conflict:** This course examines different types of violence related to gender, as well as philosophies aimed at reaching a state of negative or positive peace.
F. **Degree to which this course is oriented toward academic vis-à-vis professional education:** While the first part of the course is theoretical and philosophical, the second part aims at exploring case studies on women’s resistance against violence, as well as understanding feminism as nonviolent activism.

Course purpose, goals and objectives: To understand the meanings of violence, non-violent transformation of conflicts and the articulation between nonviolence and feminism, and see to which extent nonviolence and the protection of women’s rights are compatible.

Learning Resources: Academic, NGO reports, audio-visual material.

Teaching method, assignments, exercises, projects, assessment
The course is based on personal and collective critical presentations of the readings. The students will be asked to engage in debates around the main problematic of each session. Students are expected to actively participate (20% of the final grade). They will prepare a research paper of 3000 words (40%), on the topic of their choice (related to the course), that is due on the last day of the course. They will also prepare a case study describing and analyzing nonviolent actions from a gender perspective (40%).

Instructor’s biographical data:

Anouk Guiné, Ph.D.; Research Associate in the following research groups:

- GTM-IRESCO (CNR/Paris VIII): (Gender, Work, Mobilities - Research Institute on Contemporary Societies), Paris, France
- CRCEMC (Research Center on Foreign Civilizations in the Contemporary World), Clermont-Ferrand, France.

She also worked as a consultant in “gender and development” for the Peruvian NGOs DESCO and CEPRODEP (Lima and Ayacucho).

Her research interests include the links between gender and migration, citizenship, human rights, and multiculturalism, as well as the multiculturalist/feminist dilemma. She also works on ethnicity, racialization, politics of belonging, refugee studies, feminist approaches of international law, gender-related persecutions and asylum, women’s movements and “state feminism.”

Her last appointments included:

- Adjunct Lecturer and Research Assistant at British Studies and Gender Studies, Blaise Pascal University, Clermont-Ferrand, France.
- Visiting Assistant Professor in Political Science, New School for Social Research (NSSR), New York, NY, USA.

Detailed outline of instructional sessions:

Day 1: Origins of Violence; Roots of Male Violence

Day 2: A Feminist Perspective on Nonviolence

Day 3: Philosophical, Religious and Secular Origins of Nonviolence
- **AUDIO:** Thich Nhat Hanh. 1991. Peace is Every Step. Sounds True Recordings, Boulder, CO.

Day 4: Spiritual Dimensions of Nonviolence or Nonviolent Activism as Collective Action; Pragmatist Approach to Nonviolence: Gene Sharp

Day 5: Articulating Feminism with Pacifism, and Just-War
Day 6: Sexual Terrorism

- VIDEO: Waking up to Rape (35mn).

Day 7: Institutional Sexism


Day 8: Antigay and Lesbian Violence; Gay and Lesbian Antiviolence Activism


Optional Reading:

Day 9: Women against Violence


Day 10: Presentation of students’ individual projects

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| 10 | Fri. 9 Mar. | - Presentation of students’ individual projects (case studies)  
- Research paper due (3000 words) |