

Nonviolent Study Group

The study of nonviolence and peacemaking brings about creative solutions to injustice. Peacemaking is taking preventive actions and seizing the opportunities to deal with compelling issues before they escalate to a point where violence seems to be the only solution remaining.

Date	Reading	Reflection Questions
Wed. Sept 2	"Nonviolence - The Greatest Force" by M.K. Gandhi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is your definition of nonviolence? How does it compare to Gandhi's? 2. Where does nonviolence come from? 3. How does economic warfare exist in our society today? 4. How can we reach the hearts of men and women? 5. Is nonviolence fundamental to human nature and the distinguishing characteristic of our nature? 6. How do we realize and spread the recognition "Undisputed supremacy of the law of love in all walks of life"?
Wed. Sept 9	"Has Pacifism Become Impossible?" by John Haynes Holmes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What 4 reasons does Holmes cite for the rise of modern pacifism? 2. What were the three influences eroding support of pacifism in 1937? 3. Identify three similar agents or arguments used in today's society promoting the use of force? 4. What is the problem with the contention that there are no absolutes? 5. What is the revolution? What is our role in enacting it? Is this peacemaking? 6. Why does Holmes contend that if violence prevails it is not impossibility of pacifism?
Wed. Sept 16	"My Pilgrimage to Nonviolence" by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. And Video	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the major critiques of the philosophy's and thinkers that contributed to Dr. King's development 2. What did Dr. King hunger for throughout his adolescent and young adult life? 3. Who was AJ Muste? What is the FOR? 4. Who is Ronald Niebuhr? What is his argument against violence? 5. What role does King attribute to Gandhi in the history of nonviolence? 6. How did King become a practitioner of nonviolence? Why does he view nonviolence as a strong weapon?
Wed. Sept 23	"On Revolution and Equilibrium" by Barbara Deming	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can we escape from becoming dizzy? 2. What are the best means for changing our lives? 3. Can we criticize or call degrading the use of violence to throw off oppression? 4. How would you respond to the argument that nonviolence has been tried? 5. On page 173-174 Deeming offers an accurate description of the realization that many peacemakers engaged in a struggle come to. What is this realization? 6. Why is it naive to confine nonviolent action to petition and prayerful action? 7. When deeming charges we must not be meek to appeal to conscience and violent to use power. What is she suggesting we do? 8. Why must we clarify that the shorthand for love and truth means in practice? 9. What is the difference between force and violence? How can one employ force in nonviolence? 10. Why do people feel it is wrong in a nonviolent struggle that individuals a harmed? 11. How does nonviolence overcome an adversary? 12. How do we pass from protest to resistance? 13. How can we recruit others to nonviolence?

Wed. Sept 30	“Learning “True Love: How I Learned & Practiced Social Change in Vietnam” by Chan Khong (pg’s 11-27)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What realization did Chan come to about war? 2. How is the monks’ attitude about social work similar to that of many people toward peacemaking? 3. Does Chan’s experience on pg 16-17 reflect your own? What will motivate us to act? 4. Does Chan’s work qualify her as a nonviolent peacemaker? Why or Why not? 5. How did Chan Khong react to the dress comment? What were her thoughts regarding beauty before and after this incident? 6. How did Chan Khong come to meet Thich Nhat Hanh? Describe their relationship.
Wed. Oct 7	“Advice to a Draftee” by Leo Tolstoy And “The War Prayer” by Mark Twain	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the primary function of the USA military? 2. What are the effects of military training on our own opponents and our society? 3. Is Twain’s description of society and the use of violence accurate? How do we awaken people to this or correct those opposed to violence of this misconception? 4. What is Tolstoy’s argument against becoming soldiers? 5. What are some truths and false interpretations of the military today? 6. What actions do we make that put what is advantageous to us as individuals and a society above other humans lives? 7. How do you respond to the issue that our society legitimizes training and destroying for human life? Why or Why not should we participate in this? 8. Is this burdensome knowledge? What is your reaction to this article?
Wed. Oct 14	None	Reflection Meeting
Wed. Oct 21	“What Would You Do If” By Joan Baez	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the important argument that Baez addresses about people who question nonviolence? 2. How does Baez cling to truth throughout the questioning? 3. Is killing in human nature? 4. What does Baez point out about how we justify the use of violence? 5. How do we build nonviolent communities? 6. How has violence worked throughout history?
Wed. Oct 28	None	Nonviolence in Action Forum
Wed. Nov 4	“Exploring Nonviolent Alternatives” by Gene Sharp	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does violence and nonviolence seek to deal with an opponent? 2. Why is nonviolent action not pacifism? 3. What group has been the main practitioner of nonviolent action? 4. Which method of nonviolent action can you employ in your peacemaking? 5. How does nonviolence bring about social change? 6. What must you consider in your strategy for active nonviolence? 7. What happens when violence is employed by people claiming to use nonviolence in a struggle? 8. How does nonviolence have more in common with military struggle than with conciliation and arbitration? 9. Can nonviolence be used as civil defense? Has it?
Wed. Nov 11	Bring a Bible	“The Nonviolent Jesus” by Fr. G. Simon Harak S.J.

Wed. Nov 18	"On Anger" by Barbara Deming	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the roots of conflict? 2. How do we embrace and what do we learn from individuals who are not committed to nonviolence? 3. What issues must we join and connect? 4. How should anger be used? 5. How do we confront our anger? 6. Why are feminism and nonviolence linked together?
Wed. Nov 25	"Another Way" by Terry Dobson & "Klan March in Michigan turns Violent" by the A. P.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What should the role be of a foreigner intervening in another land? 2. How is the nonviolent fight actually an "act of reconciliation" 3. What role does the ism's, in particular sexism, contribute to violence in our society? 4. How do we respond to people and ideas that deny or seek to harm the dignity of others? 5. What did the old man do? 6. Does nonviolence require training? If so how?
Wed. Dec 2	"Note for Ave Maria" by Thomas Merton Guest Dr. Jodi Melamed and Dr. Anthony Peressini	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What were the Baltimore 9 and Catonsville 9? 2. What is Merton's main critique of the draft burning actions? 3. How do we evict war from our heart? 4. What is nonviolence supposed to accomplish? 5. Where and how is the selective service law wrong? 6. What are ways we can use nonviolence to right injustice in our society? 7. What are major injustices in our lives?
Dec 9	None	Reflection Meeting

The Nonviolent Study Group meets *every Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.* at the CENTER FOR PEACEMAKING (Academic Support Facility [ASF], Room 201), unless noted otherwise. Come join us for a discussion, pizza, and knowledge. The Academic Support Facility is located on 735 N. 17th St, between Wisconsin Ave and Wells Street across from the parking structure.

All of the readings for the nonviolence study group are on ARES. The easiest way to find the readings is to log into ARES (<http://www.marquette.edu/library/reserve/resstud.html>) – this requires an MU Student ID. Search for "Kennelly" under the instructor and select the Nonviolent Study Group class. The password is "nonviolence".