

Department of Theology

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTION

Term: **Fall 2009**
Instructor: Michael Duffey
Course #: THEO 4420
Section: 101 and 102
Course Title: **Theology Violence and Nonviolence**

Description:

The course explores the contributions of Gandhi and King to the theory and practice of nonviolence. The course will also examine the inspiration for nonviolence from the world's religions. The spectrum of violence and nonviolence ranges from the most intimate relationships to responses to global threats. We will consider the critiques of the violence of war, military force, and torture. We will also address the necessary skills of nonviolent conflict resolution. Through this course students should

1. understand and evaluate the logic and effectiveness of nonviolence;
2. become familiar with the 20th century history of nonviolent conflict resolution;
3. recognize the relationship between nonviolence and other Christian beliefs;
4. recognize the elements of nonviolent personal practices.

These objectives will be evaluated through 2 course exams, course papers and/or alternative assignments.

Course requirements

1. Course attendance is required. After 5 absences the course grade will be reduced. After 7 absences a student will be dropped from the course with a grade of WA.
2. Two exams (35% each)
3. **either a Research Paper** on a nonviolent practitioner/movement (10 pages; **due date is Tuesday November 25**) **or Service Learning** participation (2 hours per week for 10 weeks, keeping a journal of reflection on the experience, submitting the journal twice during the semester: **October 14 and December 4**. For service learning placements see www.mu.edu/servicelearning (20% of course grade)
4. **either two Position Papers** (4 pages each, **due dates** are Thursday October 2 and Thursday November 6) **or** a small group presentation of a "Four-Minute Movie" on a course theme TBA (**due date** is Tuesday November 11). (10% of course grade)

Required texts:

- Michael Duffey, *Sowing Justice, Reaping Peace*
- Louis Fischer, *Gandhi: His Life and Message for the World*
- Philip Hallie, *Lest Innocent Blood Be Shed*
- Walter Wink, *The Powers That Be: Theology for a New Millennium*
- Course Reader (available at Print World, 1537 W. Wells St.)