Non-Violence and Politics (Bachelor Year 3 / Fall)

Bachelor in Social Sciences / Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics and Law

Introduction

Since their emergence on the political scene, nonviolence theory and practice have entertained close links with politics. They have been at the heart of key 20th century phenomena ranging from decolonization and the collapse of dictatorial regimes to large-scale reforms in democratic regimes. In recent years, they have been seen in Algeria, Sudan, Hong-Kong, Belarus and in Climate Change protests worldwide. Over recent years, protests have increased repression and extreme violence. Nevertheless, non-violence remains little studied in political science and rarely taught at French universities. This course provides an opportunity to study some key texts on nonviolence to grasp the axioms on which nonviolent political action is based. Theoretical insights are discussed and confronted with reality through case studies to better grasp the potential, limits and ethics of nonviolent political engagement.
Session I: Course introduction: defining non-violence
Session II: Anthropology and core principles of non-violence
Session III: Fear and Courage
Session IV: Means and Ends
Session V: Power and leadership
Session VI: Non-violence and the collapse of authoritarian regimes
Session VII: The limits of non-violence
Session VIII: Transitional justice
Session IX: Forgiveness and reconciliation

Objectives

At the end of the course the students should have a good grasp of the concept of nonviolence and of the historical and political contexts in which it emerged. Furthermore, the students should be used to reading literature, including scientific articles, in English. Last, they should be able to analyse nonviolent political activities in English, both in written and oral forms.
This course aims at preparing students to study in Master degrees, in international politics and/or political science in France or abroad. They will be trained in attending lectures in English and in reading political science literature and texts in this language. The course will provide an insight into various tools, and especially links to databases (NAVCO; GNAD) to help the students grasp the global evolution of the field.

Program

Assessment and Final Grade

Final Exam 2 hours.

Duration

1 semester

Teaching languages

- English

Conditions of submission

If you need more information about this course, kindly send an email to: incomingdri@icp.fr

Course Requirements

A decent level in English (B2/C1) is necessary to follow the course. A background in Political Science is a plus.

Bibliography

Material for the class is available online and much of the reading will be directly indicated on the teaching platform. Compulsory reading will be made available each week directly.
In addition, the following books are recommended. Butler Judith (2020), The force of nonviolence : an ethico-political bind (Brooklyn : Verso Books).
Adam Roberts, Timothy Garton Ash ed. (2011), Civil Resistance and Power Politics
(Oxford: OUP)
Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan (2011), Why Civil Resistance Works (New York: Columbia University Press)
Mayton D., (2009) Non-Violence and Peace Psychology (Springer, Dordrecht Heidelberg)
Graeme Hayes et Sylvie Ollitrault (2013), La désobeissance civile (Paris: Presses de Sciences Po).
Tozzi Pascal (2016), Eloge de la non-violence (Paris: éditions le Pommier).
Gros Frédéric (2017), Désobeir (Paris, Flammarion)